

**STATE OF NEVADA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

August 12, 2022

**AGENDA**

**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 8:35 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, PsyD, and members Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Woodard, Psy.D., Soseh Esmaeili, PsyD, Stephanie Holland, PsyD, Catherine Pearson, Ph.D., and Lorraine Benuto, Ph.D., were present. Member Monique Abarca, LCSW, was absent at roll call.

Also present were Harry Ward, Board counsel and Deputy Attorney General, Dr. Sheila Young, Board Investigator, Dr. Gary Lenkeit, Board Investigator, Neena Laxalt, Board Lobbyist, Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, and members of the public: Luz Morrow, Brooke Smith, Brian Lech, Jodi Thomas, Tanisha Ranger, James Tenney and Tara Borsch.

Members Stephanie Holland and Lorraine Benuto left the meeting at 9:41 a.m.

**2. Public Comment.**

There was no public comment at this time. Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, stated no public comment had been received by the Board Office.

**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 June 3, 2022.**

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Psychological Examiners from June 3, 2022, were reviewed by the Board. Member Dr. Pearson asked that the minutes be revised to reflect that she was absent, and that Dr. Lorraine Benuto was present. There were no other questions, comments nor suggested changes.

**On motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board on June 3, 2022, with the correction to the roll call.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine

Pearson. Not present at vote: Lorraine Benuto and Stephanie Holland) Motion Carried: 4-0

**B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners on July 8, 2022.**

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Psychological Examiners from July 8, 2022, were reviewed by the Board. There were no questions, comments nor suggested changes.

Dr. Woodard approved as to form, not content, as she was not present at that meeting.

**On motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Stephanie Woodard, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the meeting minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board on July 8, 2022.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

#### **4. Financials**

**A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2022).**

Dr. Stephanie Woodard, Secretary/Treasurer, and Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, presented the financial report for Fiscal Year 22. As of July 31, 2022, the checking account balance was \$126,191.06. The savings account balance was \$105,010.41. She added that as of the date of the meeting, all expenses for June had not been reconciled. A final reporting of FY22 will be presented at the October meeting once the reconciliation is completed.

**On motion by Soseh Esmaili, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2022.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**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 financial report for Fiscal Year 23. They explained that although the general ledger and account balances were available for review, as the fiscal year was only one month old and the FY22 financials were not reconciled, the budget to actual report was incomplete.

**On motion by Soseh Esmaeili, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Treasurer’s Report for Fiscal Year 2023.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**C. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Accept the Audit Engagement Letter from Campbell, Jones, Cohen CPAs to perform the Fiscal Year 2021 (2022) external audit for a contracted amount of \$10,000**

Lisa Scurry, executive director, noted for the record that the posted agenda title read “2021 external audit.” She explained that was a typo and that the Fiscal Year 2022 external audit would be addressed.

Campbell, Jones, Cohen CPAs, was presented as the recommended company to conduct the FY22 audit. Ms. Scurry stated the group also conducted the FY21 audit. They have proposed a contracted amount of \$10,000 to complete the audit.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners accepted Campbell, Jones, Cohen CPAs to perform the Fiscal Year 2022 external audit for a contracted amount of \$10,000.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**D. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Select 1-2 Attendees and Allocate up to \$3,500 for Registration and Travel Costs to the ASPPB Annual Meeting. Potential attendees may be a Board or current staff member.**

The annual meeting of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) will be held October 26-30, 2022 in National Harbor, Maryland, with the general conference conducted on Friday, October 28 – Sunday, October 30. Director Scurry explained that although registration information had not yet been received, the cost of the hotel would be \$300/night and airfare would be approximately \$800 from Las Vegas or Reno. She estimated the cost for the 3 nights at \$2,200 per person.

President Owens stated her desire to attend based on the proposed conference agenda which may include discussion on diversity, repercussions of the reversal of Roe v Wade, and more. Board investigator Sheila Young asked if the Board could pay her registration cost.

Director Scurry stated that the Board previously approved \$3,500 for the conference.

President Owens asked the Board members to contact Director Scurry if they were interested. If that was the case, the item would return to the October meeting if additional monies needed to be considered. Otherwise, she suggested the previously

allocated budget would allow for her registration and travel costs and the registration cost for Dr. Young.

**On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Monique Abarca, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved up to two attendees at a cost of not more than \$3,500 for registration and travel costs to attend the ASPPB Annual Meeting October 26-30, 2022, in National Harbor, Maryland.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**E. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Executive Director to Begin the Bidding and Contracting Process for the Board Lobbyist. The current lobbyist contract expires in February 2023.**

The current contract with the Board's lobbyist, Neena Laxalt, is scheduled to expire on February 28, 2023. Director Scurry requested Board approval to begin bidding and contracting process. She added that the current contract for Ms. Laxalt was for a term of 3 years and 29 days. The full amount of the contract was \$37,719.00 or \$1,047.75 per month.

Secretary/Treasurer Woodard stated she had no issues or concerns with moving forward with the bidding and contracting process. She added that the current contract ends after the first month of the 2023 Legislative Session. She suggested that the contract period be evaluated so that the next contract does not end during a Session.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners authorized the Executive Director to begin the bidding and contracting process for the Board lobbyist.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

## **5. Board Needs and Operations**

**A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Select the Exam Officer for the State of Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners for a One-Year Term through June 30, 2023, from the Current Board Membership: Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, Whitney Owens, and Stephanie Woodard.**

All Board officer positions were filled during previous meetings with the exception of the state exam chair. Dr. Holland currently holds the position. As she was not present at the meeting, it was decided to delay the vote until the September meeting.

**B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Select the Membership of the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee for a One-Year Term through June 30, 2023, from the Current Board Membership: Monique Abarca, Lorraine Benuto, Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, Catherine Pearson, Whitney Owens, and Stephanie Woodard. Current Members of the ATEAM Committee are Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, and Stephanie Woodard.**

The current members of the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee are Stephanie Holland, Stephanie Woodard, and Soseh Esmaeili. Director Scurry stated that the current members have expressed a willingness to remain on the committee. Dr. Woodard added that she would step aside if another member wished to join the committee.

It was suggested that the membership stay the same through the end of the calendar year. The membership will be discussed again during the December meeting. That would give the new members to the Board, Dr. Pearson and Dr. Benuto, an opportunity to get comfortable with their roles before deciding whether to join the ATEAM.

**On motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Soseh Esmaeili, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners selected Soseh Esmaeili, Stephanie Holland, and Stephanie Woodard as the members of the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee for a term ending December 31, 2022.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**C. Report from the Nevada Psychological Association**

Dr. Tara Borsch, past president of the Nevada Psychological Association, presented the report from the Nevada Psychological Association. She also inquired if the NPA's continuing education committee should consider training for supervisors, given the discussions by the Board about registration of supervisors.

**D. Report From the Executive Director on Board Office Operations**

No report was provided.

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

Neena Laxalt, Board Lobbyist, provided a report on the activities of the Interim Committees of the Nevada Legislature. She also provided a summary of potential bill draft requests (BDR), as well as the process and timeline for submission.

Member Dr. Woodard provided an update on other potential legislation related to health care and workforce development.

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

Harry Ward, Deputy Attorney General, Dr. Gary Lenkeit, Board Investigator, and Dr. Sheila Young, Board Investigator, stated there were no updates on the matters listed below.

- A. Complaint #19-0626
- B. Complaint #19-0709
- C. Complaint #19-1106
- D. Complaint #21-0726
- E. Complaint #22-0321
- F. Complaint #22-0519
- G. Complaint #22-0804

**7. (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).**

The following were applicants for consideration of approval of licensure, contingent upon completion of licensure requirements: Irma Corral, Samantha Johnson, Karen Levine, and Sharon Rafferty.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Catherin Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the following applicants for licensure, contingent upon completion of licensure requirements: Irma Corral, Samantha Johnson, Karen Levine, and Sharon Rafferty.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 4-0

**A. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Request for an Extension of the Registration as a Psychological Assistant of Bernadette Hinojos**

This item was removed from the agenda with no discussion nor action.

**B. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Request for an Extension of the Registration as a Psychological Assistant of Luzviminda Morrow**

Dr. Luzviminda Morrow submitted a request for an additional year of registration as a psychological assistant in order to continue working while she takes the required

national exams to complete the licensure requirements. Her supervisor, Dr. Tanisha Ranger was present in support of the request.

Director Scurry stated that Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 641.151(3) allows the Board to approve registration of a psychological assistant for additional years beyond a third year. She added that Dr. Morrow would be working at the same location and for the same supervisor as the previous year.

There was discussion regarding the reasons for the delay in completing the licensure requirements. Dr. Morrow stated that, after failing the exam in 2021, she had to delay scheduling another attempt due to caring for the health of her parents.

Member Dr. Benuto supported the year extension to allow Dr. Morrow to complete the exams. Dr. Holland suggested extending the registration for six months hoping that establishing a deadline would assist Dr. Morrow in creating a plan for success.

**On motion by Lorraine Benuto, second by Catherine Pearson, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners approved the Request for an Extension of the Registration as a Psychological Assistant of Luzviminda Morrow through August 10, 2023.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Lorraine Benuto, Stephanie Holland, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 6-0

**C. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Request for an Extension of the Registration as a Psychological Assistant of Candis Carswell Mitchell**

This item was removed from the agenda with no discussion nor action.

**8. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Approve the Application of Tristan Sophia for License Re-Activation**

Dr. Tristan Sophia submitted an application for re-activation of her license. Upon review of the application, it was found that she had completed 30 continuing education credits but none of them were live. Director Scurry noted that she would also need an additional 3 ethics credits.

Dr. Sophia was asked to complete 15 live credit hours and 3 ethics credits. Once completed, the application would return to the Board for consideration of approval.

**On motion by Stephanie Woodard, second by Stephanie Holland, the Nevada State Board of Psychological Examiners denied the application of Dr. Tristan Sophia for reactivation of her license until such time as she provides proof of 15 additional live / face-to-face continuing education credits and 3 additional ethics credits.** (Yea: Whitney Owens, Stephanie Woodard, Lorraine Benuto, Stephanie Holland, Soseh Esmaeili, and Catherine Pearson) Motion Carried: 6-0

**9. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Consider a Process for Providing Temporary Licensure to Applicants for Licensure by Endorsement. Discussion may include provisional licensure and/or revisions to the definition of a Non-Resident Consultant.**

Lisa Scurry, Executive Director, presented a proposal to allow for temporary or provisional licensure for applicants for licensure by endorsement. She explained that the topic was originally discussed as the emergency Directive 011 was expiring. The Board office continues to receive communication from psychologists from outside of Nevada asking about options to see patients traveling to the state on a temporary basis.

The conditions under which such licensure would be permitted were discussed.

Member Dr. Woodard stated that another Nevada board allows for provisional licensure when licensure requirements have been satisfied, except for receipt of the background check, and when the individual is in good standing in any other jurisdictions where licensed. She stated finding a pathway to expedited licensure is the goal.

President Owens agreed and stated that the provisions of a non-resident consultant could also be revised to allow for short-term psychological services. She added that the risk of providing temporary licensure to individuals in good standing in other states should be minimal.

**10. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Revise the Provisions of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) 641.1519, Qualifications of supervisor, to Require Registration of Supervisors of Psychological Trainees, Psychological Interns, and Psychological Assistants**

President Owens presented the reasons for the proposal to require supervisors of psychological assistants, psychological interns and psychological trainees to register with the Board. Through conversations with UNLV staff, she confirmed that there are often multiple layers of supervision occurring. Regulation also exists that allows specialists in other fields to serve as secondary supervisors, where there is a licensed psychologist as the primary.

Director Scurry reviewed changes that were made at the previous meeting and noted that there was discussion about the reasons for which training hours may not be recognized by the Board. A change was made to revise the term "under the supervision of a person" to "under the supervision of a supervisor of record."

Member Dr. Benuto stated her concerns that the registration process does not become overly burdensome on supervisors. She added that supervisor guidelines already fall under the general domain of licensure making.

Dr. Owens stated part of the reason for this proposed regulation change was to ensure that supervisors are part of the student registration process and to close some loopholes that are occurring. Engaging supervisors from the beginning of the process will help to close communication gaps and ensure that supervisees are receiving good information and guidance from the beginning.

Director Scurry added that because interns and trainees do not have to register, there are likely many supervisors of which the Board is unaware. Additionally, she stated that there is periodically information that the Board office needs from a supervisor. This regulation will make responses and provision of information mandatory. Lastly, she commented that if this regulation is not passed, she would be recommending that the Supervised Practice Plan form be expanded so that the supervisor would acknowledge their roles and responsibilities for each supervisee, rather than this one-time registration process. Ms. Scurry stated that she has many student registrants who believe they have completed the registration process because they are working with their supervisor. The registration process is intended to reduce those types of communication problems.

Member Dr. Esmaeili stated that she sees a lot of confusion in students who come to her from outside sites. She asked if the 3-year licensure requirement would no longer apply to supervisors under the new regulation.

Member Dr. Holland stated that the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers ("APPIC") requires a secondary supervisor of an intern to be a licensed psychologist. She added that additional supervisors can be licensed in other specialties.

Public Comment: Jodi Thomas made comment in support of adding language specific to the supervision of psychological assistants and psychological interns who are serving as supervisors.

There was discussion about the number of supervised hours by a licensed psychologist required for internships. The American Psychological Association recommends psychological interns have 2 hours of individual face-to-face supervision with the primary supervisor of record each week. Overall, they would have 4 hours of supervision per week - combined individual and group - and have significant interaction with a licensed psychologist. APPIC recommends 1 hour of individual supervision by one or more licensed psychologists for every 20 hours worked by the intern. APPIC also requires the intern receive supervision from at least 2 different psychologists, and 2 hours of didactic training per week.

Public comment: Dr. Thomas inquired if a supervisor will need to have been licensed for 3 years or if the education/training is taking the place of that requirement.

President Owens responded that the Board is still contemplating the requirements to be a supervisor.

**11. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action to Provide Direction to Staff and/or the *Sub-Committee to Hire an Executive Director Related to the Recruitment and Hiring of a New Executive Director*. Discussion may include revisions to the job description and a timeline for posting the job announcement.**

At the last meeting of the Board, it was suggested that the executive director job description be amended to include the salary information in the opening paragraph. That change was made and Director Scurry brought it to the Board to inquire as to when the Board would want to re-post for the position.

Woodard recommended delaying posting the job description. She suggested that at the October meeting there would be better information about the Board's financial status for any potential pay increase or paid health benefits, and whether monies exist to pay for an overlap of the current and new executive director to allow for training.

**12. Legislative Update**

**A. (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**

Neena Laxalt, Board Lobbyist, explained that she is seeking a bill sponsor for a bill proposed by the Board related to licensure for employees working under the title "psychologist" in public agencies such as the Corrections Department. Any potential fiscal impact to the Corrections Department was being investigated.

**13. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on Regulations Proposing Changes to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 641 in Accordance with Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) Chapter 233B**

The four regulations listed below were submitted to the Legislative Commission for final adoption. The date of that meeting was not known.

- A. R175-20: Removal of "Moral"
- B. R127-21: Regulations related to Assembly Bill 327
- C. R128-21: Regulations related to Assembly Bill 366
- D. R121-21: Regulations related to Senate Bill 44

**14. (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, September 9, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

There were no suggested changes to the schedule of meetings.

**15. 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.

**16. Public Comment**

There was no public comment at this time.

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

There being no further business before the Board, President Owens adjourned the meeting at 10:54 a.m.