

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING FOR  
NEVADA STATE BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS'  
APPLICATION TRACKING EQUIVALENCY AND MOBILITY  
"ATEAM" COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Minutes**

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December 15, 2023

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

**Call to Order:** Committee Chair Soseh Esmaeili call the Nevada Board of Psychological Examiners' Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility ("ATEAM") Committee to Order on December 15, 2023, at 10:43 a.m.

**Roll Call:** Committee Chair, Soseh Esmaeili, Psy.D., and Committee Members, Dr. Catherine Pearson and Dr. Stephanie Woodard were present. The Committee had a quorum.

Also present was Laura M. Arnold, Executive Director for the Board of Psychological Examiners.

- 2. Public Comment.** NOTE: Public comment is welcomed by the Committee and may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of the meeting, as noted on the agenda. The Committee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020).

There was no public comment.

- 3. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Approval of the Meeting Minutes from the September 8, 2023, October 13, 2023, and November 3, 2023, Meetings of the Application Tracking Equivalency and Mobility (ATEAM) Committee.**

The Committee had no changes or revisions to the proposed minutes from the September 8, 2023, October 13, 2023, and November 3, 2023, Committee meeting.

*On Motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Stephanie Woodard, the ATEAM approved the meeting minutes of the ATEAM Meetings held on September 8, 2023, October 13, 2023, and November 3, 2023. (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard. Catherine Pearson approved the minutes from the September 8, 2023, meeting as to form not content. Stephanie Woodard approved the minutes from the October 13, 2023, meeting as to form not content). Motion Carried: 3-0.*

**4. (For Possible Action) Discussion and Possible Action on Applications for Licensure as a Psychologist or Registration as a Psychological Assistant, Intern or Trainee to Determine Equivalency with Nevada Requirements, Including Education and/or Training.** (See Attachment A for the List of Applicants for Possible Consideration)

a. Paola Garcia Betancourt

Dr. Catherine Pearson reviewed Ms. Garcia Betancourt's application to register as a psychological intern. Dr. Pearson noted that the application was pretty straightforward. Ms. Garcia Betancourt is getting her degree in clinical psychology at Walden University in the clinical psychology department. Her graduation date is in May 2025. She has been registered by the Board as a Psychological Trainee. In reviewing Ms. Garcia Betancourt's transcripts, Dr. Pearson did not notice any issues with her coursework. Everything checked out. The only issue Dr. Pearson noticed was the Ms. Garcia Betancourt did not identify a supervisor on her application, but the executive director's notes for Ms. Garcia Betancourt identify two supervisors and state that the Board office has received a supervised practice plan. The executive director stated that she would not be able to register Ms. Garcia Betancourt without a supervisor being identified and having been provided a supervised practice plan. For purposes of equivalency, it is the coursework that the committee considers for the applicant. Dr. Pearson inquired about whether the committee considers the supervised practice plan in its review of applicants, to which the executive director indicated no. With that, Dr. Pearson had no problem recommending approval of the application. The executive director noted that Ms. Garcia Betancourt had asked about registration retroactive to her start date in December and asked that it be included in the motion.

*On Motion by Catherine Pearson, second by Stephanie Woodard, the ATEAM approved recommending that the Board approve Paola Garcia Betancourt's application to register as a Psychological Intern retroactive*

*to December 4, 2023. (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard). Motion Carried: 3-0.*

b. Jennifer Grimes-Vawters

Dr. Soseh Esmaeili reviewed Dr. Grimes-Vawters updated PLUS report in relation to what she had previously reviewed, and stated that all of the course work was there. She noted that Dr. Grimes-Vawters is applying to register as a Psychological Assistant, and that she had done her internship at Kids Cottage from 3/2011 – 8/2012 and was getting individual supervision 3 hours per week and had group supervision as well. Now that her internship hours have been cleaned up in the PLUS report, they look to be appropriate. Dr. Esmaeili had a question about the residency at Walden University, and asked whether she had one, noting that Walden usually has a residency. The application said no, but the transcripts note there is a residency. The executive director said she did not believe that question was put out to Dr. Grimes-Vawters, her residency being the biggest issue that needed to be addressed. Dr. Esmaeili asked if the Committee had any thoughts about the residency part of the application. Dr. Woodard said the residency was in several different semesters on the transcripts. Dr. Esmaeili clarified that she is in the counseling psychology program. She also noted that Dr. Grimes-Vawters took courses in 2003, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2012 and 2015. The executive director said that could be, as Dr. Grimes-Vawters has been before the Board before and had previously been registered or told she could be registered. Dr. Woodard noted that she had a Masters of Science conferred in May 2008 and then her Ph.D. was conferred in February of 2017. Dr. Esmaeili did not see any additional questions on her end and said she would recommend her for registration as a Psychological Assistant.

*On Motion by Soseh Esmaeili, second by Catherine Pearson, the ATEAM approved recommending that the Board approve Dr. Jennifer Grimes-Vawters' application to register as a Psychological Assistant. (Yea: Soseh Esmaeili, Catherine Pearson, and Stephanie Woodard). Motion Carried: 3-0.*

**5. (For Possible Action) Discussion of ATEAM Committee Operating Procedures, including the Applicant Review Forms; and Possible Action to Propose Revisions to and/or Make Recommendations to the Board of Psychological Examiners for Adoption of the Revised Procedures and/or Review Forms.**

The Committee had no recommendations at this time.

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

- a. The next ATEAM Committee meeting will be held on January 12, 2024, following the meeting of the regular Board meeting (10 a.m. or later)

**7. Items for Future Discussion.** (No discussion among the Committee members will take place on this item.)

The Committee did not have any items for future discussion. The executive director stated that Board President Dr. Owens had noted a concern about the residence portions of the PLUS where it says "no" but applicants were being approved, and clarified that sometimes when the PLUS states "no" as to residency, there actually is a residency as evidenced in the transcripts. Dr. Woodard added that perhaps the board office could ask that the applicants change their answer on the PLUS so that it is consistent with the information in the transcripts. The committee wants to make sure there is consistency.

**8. Public Comment.** Public comment is welcomed by the Board and may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Public comment will be allowed at the beginning and end of the meeting, as noted on the agenda. The Committee Chair may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and in their sole discretion. Comments will not be restricted based on viewpoint. No action may be taken upon a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken (NRS 241.020).

There was no public comment at this time.

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

There being no further business before the Committee, Chair Esmaeili adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

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