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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

**F I N A L M I N U T E S**

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS,  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS,  
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

TIME: 11:05 A.M.

Held at

**PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

**VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

January 16, 2024

1                   State Board of Social Workers,  
2                   Marriage and Family Therapists,  
3                   and Professional Counselors  
4                   January 16, 2024

5  
6  
7 BOARD MEMBERS:  
8

9 Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair  
10 Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of  
11 Professional and Occupational Affairs  
12 Richard Joseph Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS  
13 Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS  
14 Eric DeCriscio, MA, LPC, ACS  
15 Kimberly Early, LSW  
16 Erika Evans-Weaver, Ph.D., LMFT, Vice Chair  
17 Mayte Garcia, LCSW, LCADC, SAP, CEAP - Absent  
18 Linda A. Martin, LCSW, RN - Absent  
19 Cindy Moyer, LCSW  
20  
21

22 BUREAU PERSONNEL:  
23

24 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel  
25 Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel  
26 Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor  
27 and Prosecution Liaison  
28 Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
29 Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
30 Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
31 Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
32 Mark R. Zogby, Esquire, Board Prosecutor  
33 Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator  
34 Deena Parmelee, Legal Office Administrator 1,  
35 Department of State  
36 Carlton Smith, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution  
37 Division  
38 Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State  
39  
40

41 ALSO PRESENT:  
42

43 Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director,  
44 National Association of Social Workers,  
45 Pennsylvania Chapter  
46 Amy Sagen, Chief Operating Officer, National  
47 Association of Social Workers  
48 Emma Sager, Student at Elizabethtown College  
49  
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State Board of Social Workers,  
Marriage and Family Therapists,  
and Professional Counselors  
January 16, 2024

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ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

- Ashley Hutton, Student at Elizabethtown College
- Keely Mitchell, Portsmouth Adolescent Service
- Mackenzie Schmoyer, Student at Elizabethtown College
- Marielle Duplessis, Student at Elizabethtown College
- Marcus
- Antonia Raimondo, Student at Elizabethtown College
- Sheridan Smink, Elizabethtown College
- Malik
- Alexis Orzechowski
- Julia Gottlieb, LCSW
- Hannah M.
- Michaela Kanode, Elizabethtown College
- Anneliz Rosario
- Madeline Helmstetter

1 \*\*\*

2 State Board of Social Workers,  
3 Marriage and Family Therapists  
4 and Professional Counselors

5 January 16, 2024

6 \*\*\*

7 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,  
8 at 9:00 a.m., the Board entered into Executive  
9 Session with Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel,  
10 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial  
11 deliberations and to have attorney-client  
12 consultation. The Board entered into public session  
13 at 11:00 a.m.]

14 \*\*\*

15 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State  
16 Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family  
17 Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on  
18 Tuesday, January 16, 2024. Michelle Santiago,  
19 Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, called the meeting to  
20 order at 11:04 a.m.

21 \*\*\*

22 [Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the  
23 meeting was being held virtually pursuant to Act 100  
24 of 2021, which allows meetings to be held in a hybrid  
25 format and to establish a quorum to effectuate the

1 business of the Board.

2 Ms. Miley informed everyone that the meeting was  
3 being recorded, and those who continued to  
4 participate were giving their consent to be recorded.

5 Ms. Miley also noted the Board met in Executive  
6 Session to have attorney-client consultation and for  
7 the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial  
8 deliberations.]

9 \*\*\*

10 Introduction of Board Members

11 [Chair Santiago requested an introduction of Board  
12 members. A quorum was present.]

13 \*\*\*

14 Introduction of Attendees

15 [Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator, provided an  
16 introduction of attendees.]

17 \*\*\*

18 Approval of minutes of the November 28, 2023 meeting

19 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

20 Our first item of business is our  
21 approval of draft minutes. Any  
22 additions or corrections? Not seeing  
23 any.

24 Could I have a motion to approve  
25 the draft minutes?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 MS. EARLY:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Sarah, could we have the roll call  
7 vote, please?

8

9 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
10 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
11 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13

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14 Report of Prosecutorial Division

15 [Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board

16 Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, presented

17 the VRP Consent Agreement for Case No. 23-69-016847.]

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
20 adopt the Consent Agreement of Case No.  
21 23-69-016847.

22 Could I have a motion, please?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24 So moved.

25 MS. EARLY:

1                   Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3                   Any other discussion, Board members?

4                   Could we have the vote, please?

5

6                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
7                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
8                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

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11 Report of Board Counsel - Annual Review

12 [Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided  
13 the annual review of the Sunshine Act and Recusal  
14 Guidelines. She explained that the purpose of the  
15 Sunshine Act is the right of the public to be present  
16 at all meetings of agencies and to witness the  
17 deliberations, policy formulation, and decision-  
18 making because it is vital to the enhancement and  
19 proper functioning of the democratic process.

20               Ms. Miley stated that meetings must be open to  
21 the public when deliberations or official action  
22 takes place. She provided the definition of agency,  
23 deliberation, and official action.

24               Ms. Miley addressed public notice, including  
25 publication of the place, date, and time. She noted

1 public notice is not required in a case of an  
2 emergency meeting or conference.

3 Ms. Miley discussed the recording of votes and  
4 requirement of minutes for all open meetings. She  
5 mentioned that the only applicable exceptions to open  
6 meeting requirements are Executive Sessions and  
7 conferences.

8 Ms. Miley explained that legal challenges to the  
9 Sunshine Act have to be filed within 30 days of the  
10 date of the meeting or discovery of any action in  
11 which the Sunshine Act was violated and discussed  
12 penalties for violating the Sunshine Act.

13 Ms. Miley stated all Board business,  
14 deliberations, and official actions should be  
15 conducted in an open meetings; and Board members  
16 should not discuss agency business, especially  
17 Executive Session matters outside of an official  
18 Board meeting.

19 Ms. Miley noted committee meetings discussing  
20 regulations and policies should take place in an open  
21 meeting with appropriate public notice. She  
22 mentioned that administrative functions are not  
23 subject to open meeting requirements.

24 Ms. Miley addressed mandatory recusals, where a  
25 Board member may have a prosecutorial role or direct

1 personal or financial interest in the outcome of the  
2 matter. She addressed strongly suggested recusals,  
3 where there is a personal affection or outside  
4 knowledge and someone cannot make a fair and unbiased  
5 determination.

6 Ms. Miley noted that discretionary recusals are  
7 when a Board member cannot hear and dispose of the  
8 case or participate in a decision on a subject fairly  
9 and without prejudice. She encouraged Board members  
10 who are uncertain whether to recuse themselves to  
11 discuss the matter with Board Counsel privately.

12 Ms. Miley addressed abstention versus recusal,  
13 noting abstention means someone is withholding their  
14 vote but does not affect quorum requirements. She  
15 noted the Board member is unable to vote at all with  
16 recusal and can affect the quorum requirement.

17 Ms. Miley addressed conflicts of interest.  
18 Professional Board members: No member of any  
19 professional examining and licensing board shall at  
20 the same time be an officer or agent of any Statewide  
21 association or organization representing the  
22 profession or occupation subject to the Board's  
23 actions. 71 P.S. § 279.3(b)

24 Ms. Miley noted that Public Board members are A  
25 member of a licensing board or commission designated

1 as representing the public at large shall be a private  
2 citizen and shall not Be a member of any profession or  
3 occupational which is regulated or licensed by the  
4 board, commission or Bureau of Professional and  
5 Occupational Affairs.

6 Be related to or part of the immediate family of any  
7 member of the profession or occupation to be licensed  
8 or regulated by the particular board or commission.

9 Ms. Miley also noted that Public Board members  
10 may not Be affiliated in any way with the profession  
11 or occupation to be licensed or regulated.

12 Hold any other appointive or elective public office or  
13 position within this Commonwealth or another state or  
14 the United States Government during the appointive  
15 term for which he serves.

16 And that Any person not meeting the standards set  
17 forth herein shall be ineligible for membership on the  
18 board or commission as a public member. 71 P.S. §  
19 279.4.

20 Ms. Miley asked if anyone had questions. No  
21 questions were asked.]

22

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23 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Adjudication and  
24 Order

25 MS. MILEY:

1 For the Board's consideration at item 5  
2 is a Proposed Adjudication and Order  
3 for licensee Amy Stewart, Case Nos. 22-  
4 69-002129 & 22-69-002133.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 I believe that the Chair will entertain  
7 a motion to adopt the Adjudication and  
8 Order in the Matter of Amy Stewart,  
9 Case Nos. 22-69-002129 & 22-69-002133.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 MS. EARLY:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

15 Any further discussion, Board members?  
16 Seeing none. Could we have the roll  
17 call vote, please?

18  
19 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
20 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
21 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 \*\*\*

24 Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudication and  
25 Order

1 MS. MILEY:

2 The next item on the Board report is  
3 item 6 pertaining to Applicant  
4 Francesca Barajas, Case No. 22-69-  
5 013841.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7 I believe that the Chair will entertain  
8 a motion to adopt the Final Order in  
9 the Matter of Francesca Barajas, Case  
10 No. 22-69-013841.

11 Could I have a motion, please?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 So moved.

14 MS. EARLY:

15 Second.

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17 Any other discussion, Board members?  
18 May we have the roll call vote, please?

19  
20 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
21 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
22 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously.]

24 \*\*\*

25 MS. MILEY:

1 Item 7 on today's agenda is pertaining  
2 to Laura Sarsony at Case No. 22-69-  
3 017694.

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 I believe that the Chair will entertain  
6 a motion to adopt the Final  
7 Adjudication and Order in the Matter of  
8 Laura Sarsony, Case No. 22-69-017694.

9 Could I have a motion, please?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 MS. EARLY:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

15 Any further discussion? Seeing none.  
16 Could I have the roll call vote?

17  
18 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
19 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
20 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 \*\*\*

23 Regulatory Report

24 [Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel, advised the  
25 Board that general revisions Chapter 47 will be

1 brought before the Board's next meeting on March 12,  
2 2024.]

3 \*\*\*

4 Legislative Report

5 [Tyesha C. Miley, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed  
6 Board members that Senate Bill 1019 pertaining to  
7 licensed associate marriage and family therapists, as  
8 well as licensed associate professional counselors,  
9 was introduced on December 11, 2023, and subsequently  
10 referred to the Consumer Protection and Professional  
11 Licensure Committee at that time. She reported no  
12 further action has taken place since its introduction  
13 but will keep the Board advised and informed of any  
14 movement of that bill.]

15 \*\*\*

16 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

17 \*\*\*

18 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

19 \*\*\*

20 Report of Board Administrator

21 [Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator, requested  
22 Board approval of the proposed 2025 Board meeting  
23 dates.]

24 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

25 Could I have a motion, please?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 MS. EARLY:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Any discussion about the dates, folks?

7 Could we have the roll call vote,  
8 please?

9

10 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
11 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
12 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14

\*\*\*

15 Review of Applications

16 MS. MILEY:

17 The first matter is number 10, an  
18 Application for a Clinical Social  
19 Worker by Examination.

20 I believe the Chair would entertain  
21 a motion to approve this Application  
22 subsequently rescinding the provisional  
23 denial from the November 28, 2023  
24 meeting.

25 Is there such a motion?

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Yes. Could I have a motion, please?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4 So moved.

5 MS. EARLY:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8 Any additional discussion, Board  
9 members? Could we have the roll call  
10 vote?

11  
12 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
13 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
14 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously. The name of the  
16 Applicant is Rossllyn Grossinger.]

17 \*\*\*

18 MS. MILEY:

19 The next matter is number 11, Allison  
20 Smith.

21 I believe the Chair would entertain  
22 a motion to provisionally deny the  
23 Application of Allison Smith at this  
24 time.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1                   Could I have a motion, please?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3                   So moved.

4 MS. EARLY:

5                   Second.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7                   Any additional discussion, Board  
8                   members? Could we have the roll call  
9                   vote, Sarah, please?

10

11                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
12                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
13                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15   \*\*\*

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17                   Moving on to agenda item 12. The Chair  
18                   will entertain a motion to grant the  
19                   license for Jessica Pokras.

20                   Could I have a motion, please?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22                   So moved.

23 MS. EARLY:

24                   Second.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1 Any additional discussion, Board  
2 members? Could we have the roll call  
3 vote, please?

4  
5 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
6 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
7 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 \*\*\*

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 Moving on to agenda item 13. The Chair  
12 will entertain a motion to  
13 provisionally deny the Application of  
14 Kerry Welch.

15 May I have a motion, please?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 So moved.

18 MS. EARLY:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

21 Any other discussion, Board members?  
22 Could we have the roll call vote,  
23 please?

24  
25 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

1                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
2                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4   \*\*\*

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6                   Moving on to agenda item 14, Marisa  
7                   Terry. I believe the Board will  
8                   entertain a motion to provisionally  
9                   deny the Application for Marisa Terry.

10                                   May I have a motion, please?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12                                   So moved.

13 MS. EARLY:

14                                   Second.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16                   Any other discussion, Board members?  
17                   Could we have the roll call vote,  
18                   please?

19  
20                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
21                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
22                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously.]

24   \*\*\*

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1 Moving on to agenda item 15, Peter  
2 Thompson. I will entertain a motion  
3 that the Board will provisionally deny  
4 the Application of Peter Thompson.

5 May I have a motion, please?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 So moved.

8 MS. EARLY:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 Any other discussion, Board members?  
12 Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
13 call vote, please?

14  
15 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
16 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
17 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19 \*\*\*

20 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

21 Moving on to agenda item 16, Terrance  
22 Martin. I believe the Board will  
23 entertain a motion to approve the  
24 Application of Terrance Martin.

25 May I have a motion, please?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 MS. EARLY:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Any other discussion, Board members?

7 Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
8 call vote, please?

9

10 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
11 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
12 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14

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15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16 Moving on to agenda item 17, Allison  
17 Oczko. I believe the Board will  
18 entertain a motion to provisionally  
19 deny the Application of Allison Oczko.

20 May I have a motion, please?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 So moved.

23 MS. EARLY:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1 Any other discussion, Board members?  
2 Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
3 call vote, please?

4  
5 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
6 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
7 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9 \*\*\*

10 Review of Applications - Act 41 Review

11 MS. MILEY:

12 The Chair will entertain a motion to  
13 provisionally license the Applicant at  
14 number 18, Leiko Low, to take the exam  
15 with the passing score on the  
16 examination.

17 Is there a motion?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19 So moved.

20 MS. EARLY:

21 Second.

22 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

23 Any discussion, Board members? Sarah,  
24 could we have the roll call vote,  
25 please?

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Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

[The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the  
motion.]

\*\*\*

MS. MILEY:

In regards to Applicant number 19, Sean  
Delaney, I believe the Chair would  
entertain a motion to approve a  
provisional license with the  
requirement that the master's  
examination be passed.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Is there any discussion, Board members?  
Could we have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. EARLY:

Second.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Any other discussion, Board members?  
Seeing none and hearing none. Could we  
have the roll call vote, please?

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Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

\*\*\*

MS. MILEY:

For number 20, Applicant, Stephanie Leon, I believe the Chair Board would entertain a motion to approve a provisional license with the requirement that the Applicant pass the master's license exam.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Could we have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. EARLY:

Second.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Any discussion, Board members? Could we have the roll call, please?

Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

1                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.  
2 [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the  
3 motion.]

4   \*\*\*

5 MS. MILEY:

6                                   For number 21, the Chair would  
7                                   entertain a motion for a provisional  
8                                   license on Applicant, Adriana Salas.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10                                   Could we have a motion, please?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12                                   So moved.

13 MS. EARLY:

14                                   Second.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16                                   Any further discussion, Board members?  
17                                   Hearing none. Could we have the vote,  
18                                   please?

19  
20                                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
21                                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
22                                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously.]

24   \*\*\*

25 MS. MILEY:

1 For number 22, Applicant, Denise Brown,  
2 the Chair would entertain a motion to  
3 provisionally deny the Application at  
4 agenda item 22.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Could I have a motion, please?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 MS. EARLY:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Any further discussion, Board members?

13 Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
14 call vote?

15

16 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
17 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
18 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20

\*\*\*

21 MS. MILEY:

22 With regard to item 23, Applicant,  
23 Felicia Roberts, I believe the Chair  
24 would entertain a motion to issue an  
25 Unrestricted License in this matter.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2                   Could I have a motion, please?

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4                   So moved.

5 MS. EARLY:

6                   Second.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8                   Any other discussion? Could we have  
9                   the roll call vote, please?

10

11                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
12                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
13                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15

\*\*\*

16 MS. MILEY:

17                   With regard to item 24, Ginger Brown, I  
18                   believe the Chair would entertain a  
19                   motion to provisionally deny this  
20                   Applicant.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22                   Could I have a motion, please?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24                   So moved.

25 MS. EARLY:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 Any other discussion, Board members?

4 Sarah, the roll call vote, please.

5

6 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

7 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

8 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

\*\*\*

11 MS. MILEY:

12 On item 25, Applicant, Joanne Gaines,

13 this matter has been tabled by the

14 Board.

15

\*\*\*

16 MS. MILEY:

17 We will move on to item 26 pertaining

18 to Applicant, Rachel Pipes. I believe

19 the Chair would entertain a motion, at

20 this time, to provisionally deny this

21 Application.

22 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

23 May I have a motion, please?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 MS. EARLY:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 Any other discussion, Board members?

5 Hearing none. Roll call vote, please.

6

7 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

8 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

9 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11

\*\*\*

12 MS. MILEY:

13 For agenda item 27, Applicant, Aria

14 Kenney, I believe the Chair would

15 entertain a motion to approve this

16 Application.

17 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

18 May I have a motion, please?

19 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

20 So moved.

21 MS. EARLY:

22 Second.

23 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

24 Any other discussion, Board members?

25 Hearing none. Could we have the roll

1 call vote, please?

2

3 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
4 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
5 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7

\*\*\*

8 MS. MILEY:

9 For agenda item 28, Applicant, Clare  
10 Martin, I believe the Board will  
11 entertain a motion to provisionally  
12 deny this Application.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 May I have a motion, please?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 So moved.

17 MS. EARLY:

18 Second.

19 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

20 Any additional discussion, Board  
21 members? Hearing none. Could we have  
22 the roll call vote, please?

23

24 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
25 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

1                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3   \*\*\*

4 MS. MILEY:

5                                   For item 29, Irene Sullivan, I believe  
6                                   the Board Chair will entertain a motion  
7                                   to grant the license Application at  
8                                   item 29.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10                                   Could I have a motion, please?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12                                   So moved.

13 MS. EARLY:

14                                   Second.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16                                   Any additional discussion, Board  
17                                   members? Seeing none. Could we have  
18                                   the roll call vote, please?

19

20                                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
21                                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
22                                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously.]

24   \*\*\*

25 MS. MILEY:

1 For item 30, Jason Powell, I believe  
2 the Chair would entertain a motion to  
3 provisionally deny this Application.

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 May I have a motion, please?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 So moved.

8 MS. EARLY:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 Any further discussion, Board members?  
12 Not hearing any. Could we have the  
13 roll call vote, please?

14

15 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
16 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
17 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

18 [The motion carried unanimously.]

19

\*\*\*

20 MS. MILEY:

21 For agenda item 31, Applicant, Nicole  
22 Vogelsang, I believe the Chair will  
23 entertain a motion to provisionally  
24 deny this Application.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1                   Could I have a motion, please?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3                   So moved.

4 MS. EARLY:

5                   Second.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7                   Any further discussion, Board members?

8                   Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
9                   call vote, please?

10

11                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
12                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
13                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15   \*\*\*

16 MS. MILEY:

17                   Applicant, Pamela Kimmel, at item 32, I  
18                   believe the Chair will entertain a  
19                   motion, at this time, to grant the  
20                   License Application.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22                   Could I have a motion, please?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24                   So moved.

25 MS. EARLY:

1                   Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3                   Any further discussion? Could I have  
4                   the roll call vote, please?

5

6                   Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
7                   aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
8                   aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

\*\*\*

11 MS. MILEY:

12                   For item 33, Applicant, Sarah Clark, I  
13                   believe that the Chair is entertaining  
14                   a motion to provisionally deny this  
15                   Application.

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17                   May I have a motion, please?

18 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

19                   So moved.

20 MS. EARLY:

21                   Second.

22 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

23                   Any discussion, Board members? Hearing  
24                   none. Could we have the roll call  
25                   vote, Sarah?

1

2

Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

3

aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

4

aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

5

[The motion carried unanimously.]

6

\*\*\*

7

MS. MILEY:

8

I believe the Chair, at this time, will

9

Entertain a motion to provisionally

10

deny the Application at item 34,

11

Stephanie Katsur.

12

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

13

Could I have a motion, please?

14

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

15

So moved.

16

MS. EARLY:

17

Second.

18

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19

Any other discussion, Board members?

20

Hearing none. Could we have the roll

21

call vote?

22

23

Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

24

aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,

25

aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

1 [The motion carried unanimously.]

2 \*\*\*

3 Review of Applications - Preapproved Provider of  
4 Continuing Education

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 The next item is Preapproved Provider  
7 of Continuing Education at item 35. I  
8 believe the Board will provisionally  
9 deny the Application of agenda item 35,  
10 Penn Medicine at Home.

11 May I have a motion, please.

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 So moved.

14 MS. EARLY:

15 Second.

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17 Any other discussion, Board members?  
18 Hearing none. Could we have the roll  
19 call vote, please?

20  
21 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
22 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
23 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25 \*\*\*

1 Miscellaneous - Annual Board Member Elections

2 MS. MILEY:

3 At this time, Chair Santiago, we will  
4 be holding the annual Board member  
5 elections.

6 I will open the floor for  
7 nominations for the position of Chair  
8 of this Board. Are there, at this  
9 time, any nominations for the position  
10 of Chair for the State Board of Social  
11 Workers, Marriage and Family  
12 Therapists, and Professional  
13 Counselors?

14 MS. MOYER:

15 I nominate Michelle Santiago to  
16 continue as Board Chair.

17 MS. MILEY:

18 Second?

19 MR. DECRISCIO:

20 I second.

21 MS. MILEY:

22 Are there any other nominations at this  
23 time? Hearing none. I will close  
24 nominations for the position of Chair  
25 of the Board.





1 Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 Any discussion, Board members? Hearing  
4 none. Could we have the roll call  
5 vote, Sarah, please?

6

7 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,  
8 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,  
9 aye; Evans, aye; Moyer, aye.

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11

\*\*\*

12 Appointment - Annual Prosecution Division

13 Presentation

14 [Carlton Smith, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,  
15 Prosecution Division, informed Board members that he  
16 assumed his role in March 2023 when Carolyn  
17 DeLaurentis was promoted to the Executive Deputy  
18 Chief Counsel position and provided a brief summary  
19 of his professional background.

20 Mr. Smith presented the 2023 Prosecution  
21 Division's Annual Report for the State Board of  
22 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and  
23 Professional Counselors. He reported 35,502 active  
24 licensees with 514 opened cases in 2023 and 425 cases  
25 in 2022. He noted 518 open cases and 453 closed

1 cases. He stated the average number of days to close  
2 a case from the time the complaint is received until  
3 disposition was 268 days in 2023 and 355 days in  
4 2022. He mentioned their goal is to have a case  
5 disposed of within a year or less across all boards.  
6 He also reported the most common discipline in 2023  
7 was fines. He noted mandatory continuing education  
8 was around 10 in 2022 and 5 in 2023.

9 Mr. Smith addressed cases where there was no  
10 discipline and referred to prosecution not warranted  
11 under Z02. He reported 16 withdrawals of complaints  
12 in 2023 and 11 in 2022. He addressed warning letters  
13 under Z18, noting they are the most appropriate  
14 course of action when cases are fairly mundane in  
15 terms of seriousness.

16 Chair Santiago requested a breakdown by license  
17 of how many licenses denied were licensed  
18 professional counselor (LPC), marriage and family  
19 therapist (MFT), or social work. She specifically  
20 requested a breakdown by occupation regarding the  
21 number 213 under prosecution was not warranted. She  
22 also requested a breakdown of current open cases.

23 Mr. Smith offered to provide the Board with a  
24 further breakdown of information through the  
25 Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS).]

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Adjournment

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Could I have a motion to adjourn,  
please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. EARLY:

Second.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Thank you so much folks for all of your  
work. I will see everybody in March.

\*\*\*

[There being no further business, the State Board of  
Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and  
Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at  
12:14 p.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting.



Madeline Helmstetter,  
Minute Clerk  
Sargent's Court Reporting  
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS,  
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS,  
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS  
REFERENCE INDEX

January 16, 2024

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	9:00	Executive Session
11	11:00	Return to Open Session
12		
13	11:04	Official Call to Order
14		
15	11:05	Introduction of Board Members
16		
17	11:05	Introduction of Attendees
18		
19	11:07	Approval of Minutes
20		
21	11:08	Report of Prosecutorial Division
22		
23	11:11	Report of Board Counsel
24		
25	11:26	Regulatory Report
26		
27	11:27	Legislative Report
28		
29	11:28	Report of Board Administrator
30		
31	11:30	Review of Applications
32		
33	11:57	Miscellaneous
34		
35	12:01	New Business
36		
37	12:02	Appointment - Carlton Smith, Deputy
38		Chief Counsel, Annual Prosecution
39		Division Report
40		
41	12:14	Adjournment
42		
43		
44		
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