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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: 11:13 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

March 12, 2024

1 State Board of Social Workers,
2 Marriage and Family Therapists,
3 and Professional Counselors
4 March 12, 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 Linda A. Martin, LCSW, RN
18 Cindy Moyer, LCSW
19

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21 BUREAU PERSONNEL:

22
23 Carolyn A. DeLaurentis, Esquire, Executive Deputy
24 Chief Counsel, Department of State
25 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
26 Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel
27 Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
28 and Prosecution Liaison
29 Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
30 Patrick Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
31 Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
32 Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
33 Kelsey B. Ashworth, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
34 Lindsay Szymanski, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
35 Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator
36 KaVaughn Webb, Board Administrator
37 Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,
38 Department of State
39 Michael McDonald, Policy Director, Department of
40 State
41 Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
42

43
44 ALSO PRESENT:

45
46 Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director,
47 National Association of Social Workers,
48 Pennsylvania Chapter
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Marriage and Family Therapists,
and Professional Counselors
March 12, 2024

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ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

Troy Stevenson, Director of State Advocacy Campaigns,
The Trevor Project
Kara Crawford, Social Work Intern, PennCares Support
Services
R. Perry Monastero, Ed.D., RPM Consulting Group, LLC
Peter M. Good, Esquire, Caldwell & Kearns, P.C.
Rich DeMayo
Laura Clark
Lis Cristina Santamaria Garcia
Mishka Kimball
Derek Richmond, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

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

5 March 12, 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 Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,
10 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
11 deliberations on a number of matters currently
12 pending before the Board and to receive the advice of
13 counsel. The Board entered into public session at
14 11:00 a.m.]

15 ***

16 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
17 Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
18 Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
19 Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Michelle Santiago, Psy.D.,
20 NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, called the meeting to order
21 at 11:13 a.m.

22 ***

23 Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
24 [Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator, provided a
25 roll call of Board members and introduction of

1 attendees.]

2

3 [Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed
4 everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and
5 those who continued to participate were giving their
6 consent to be recorded.

7 Mr. Barrett also noted the Board entered into
8 Executive Session for the purpose of conducting
9 quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters
10 that were pending before the Board and to receive the
11 advice of counsel.]

12

13 Approval of minutes of the January 16, 2024 meeting

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 The first item is approval of the draft
16 minutes from the January 16, 2024
17 meeting.

18 I believe the Board Chair would
19 entertain a motion to approve the
20 minutes from the January 16, 2024
21 meeting.

22 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

23 Do I have a motion?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Could I have a second, please?

3 DR. BEHUN:

4 Second.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Could I have a vote?

7

8 Santiago, yes; Claggett, aye; Behun,
9 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
10 Early, aye; Evans, aye; Martin,
11 abstain; Moyer, aye.

12 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio and Linda Martin
13 abstained from voting on the motion.]

14

15 Report of Prosecutorial Division - No Report

16 [Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board
17 Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, had no
18 report.]

19

20 Report of Board Counsel - Matters for Deliberation

21 MR. BARRETT:

22 Item 2 is Brooke Kapustik, Case No. 23-
23 69-000080. I believe the Board Chair
24 would order counsel to draft a Final
25 Adjudication and Order consistent with

1 discussions in Executive Session.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 May I have a motion?

4 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 So moved.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7 Could I have a second, please?

8 DR. BEHUN:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 Is there any further discussion? Could
12 I have a roll call vote, please?

13

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

18 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20

21 Report of Board Counsel - Motion to Deem Facts

22 Admitted

23 MR. BARRETT:

24 Item 3 is Melissa Jenereski, Case No.
25 23-69-005541. The Board is going to

1 table this one.

2 I believe the Board Chair would
3 entertain a motion to table item 3 on
4 the agenda.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Could I have a motion, please?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 DR. BEHUN:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Is there any further discussion, Board
13 members? Could we have the vote,
14 please?

15

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

20 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
21 voting on the motion.]

22

23 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Adjudication and
24 Order

25 MR. BARRETT:

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

[The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the
motion. Eric DeCriscio abstained from voting on the
motion.]

Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudication and
Order

MR. BARRETT:

Item 6 is Akiah Robinson, Case No. 23-
69-001375. I believe the Board Chair
would entertain a motion to approve the
Final Adjudication and Order in this
matter.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

May I have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Could I have a second?

DR. BEHUN:

Second.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Is there any further discussion, Board
3 members? Could I have the roll call
4 vote?

5
6 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun,
7 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
8 Early, aye; Evans, aye; Martin, aye;
9 Moyer, aye.

10 [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the
11 motion. Eric DeCriscio abstained from voting on the
12 motion.]

13 ***

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 Item 7 is Lis Cristina Santamaria
16 Garcia, Case No. 22-69-002375. This
17 one was also on the agenda for counsel
18 to have further discussion with the
19 Board and does not need to be voted on.

20 ***

21 MR. BARRETT:

22 Item 8 is Sirpa H. Cossaboon, Case No.
23 23-69-001375. I believe the Board
24 Chair would entertain a motion to table
25 this agenda item.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 I will entertain that motion.

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4 So moved.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Could I have a second?

7 DR. BEHUN:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 Any other discussion, Board members?

11 Could we have the vote, please?

12

13 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

14 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;

15 Early, aye; Evans, aye; Martin, aye;

16 Moyer, aye.

17 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
18 voting on the motion.]

19

20 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
21 Professional and Occupational Affairs, noted there
22 were questions from the public asking for an
23 explanation concerning item 7 on the agenda.

24 Mr. Barrett explained that he was not present for
25 the original deliberations for each of the cases,

1 because he is new counsel to the Board. He noted the
2 Board already voted on the two cases, but he wanted
3 to confirm the rationale of the decisions with the
4 Board to make sure the orders were drafting in a way
5 that accurately conveyed the reasoning of the Board.
6 He reported that no other action had been taken other
7 than what had been taken in the past.

8 Lis Cristina Santamaria Garcia asked whether she
9 would be given permission to add more to her case
10 from the discussion of the Board following the last
11 submission of evidence. She commented on waiting for
12 a decision for more than two years and asked for an
13 estimated timeline for the Board's final decision.

14 Mr. Barrett could not provide a definite timeline
15 and apologized for the delay but hoped to get an
16 order out soon. He noted the record is closed, but
17 any additional evidence could be presented to the
18 Board that could potentially impact its decision.

19 Mr. Barrett stated the additional evidence may or
20 may not cause the case to be reopened, but
21 anticipated having a decision quickly based on the
22 age of the application.

23 Ms. Santamaria Garcia informed Mr. Barrett that
24 information was sent to Ms. Miley but offered to
25 resubmit that information. She also believed the

1 last submission of evidence was a transcript of a
2 conversation with the Board translator regarding her
3 translation.

4 Ms. Santamaria Garcia reported that the Board had
5 a translation, and the translations were reviewed and
6 then submitted to the Board. She noted she was not
7 present when those translations were submitted and
8 wanted a transcript of the translation. She noted
9 requested that from Ms. Miley and also requested Mr.
10 Barrett's email address.

11 Mr. Barrett provided his email address to Ms.
12 Santamaria Garcia and offered to consider whether the
13 information would impact the process.]

14 ***
15 Legislative Report - No Report

16 ***
17 Report of Board Chairperson
18 [Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair,
19 welcomed Attorney Barrett to the Board. She thanked
20 the Applications Review Committee for their hard work
21 concerning the applicants and everyone involved with
22 the review of the continuing education (CE)
23 applications as well.]

24 ***
25 Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report

1 ***

2 Report of Board Administrator

3 [Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator, requested

4 Board approval for travel to the Counseling

5 Regulatory Boards Annual Summit in San Juan, PR, June

6 26-28, 2024. She noted the National Board for

7 Certified Counselors (NBCC) is funding the summit,

8 but asked for approval in case anything was not

9 covered. She also believed the Board Chair is

10 requesting approval to attend.]

11 MR. BARRETT:

12 I believe the Board Chair would
13 entertain a motion to send one Board
14 member and the Board administrator to
15 travel to the Counseling Regulatory
16 Boards Annual Summit in San Juan, PR,
17 June 26-28, 2024.

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 I will entertain that motion, Board
20 members. Is there any discussion?

21 Could I have a motion, please?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

23 So moved.

24 DR. BEHUN:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Any additional discussion? Could we
3 have the vote, please?

4

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

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

11 Review of Applications

12 MR. BARRETT:

13 Item 10 is the Application of Social
14 Worker by Examination of Marc Boriosi.

15 I believe the Board Chair would
16 entertain a motion to provisionally
17 deny the Application at agenda item 10.

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 I'll entertain that motion. Could I
20 have a motion, please?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 So moved.

23 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

24 Could I have a second?

25 DR. BEHUN:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 Any further discussion, Board members,
4 on the Applicant at number 10? Could
5 we have the vote, please?

6

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

11 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
12 voting on the motion.]

13

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 Item 11 is the Application of Clinical
16 Social Worker by Examination of Chelsea
17 Cicora-Brown.

18 I believe the Board Chair would
19 entertain a motion to grant licensure
20 to the Applicant at item 11.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 I will entertain that motion. Could I
23 have a motion, please?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 DR. BEHUN:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 Any further discussion, Board members?
5 Seeing none. Could we have the vote,
6 please?

7

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

12 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
13 voting on the motion.]

14 ***

15 MR. BARRETT:

16 Item 12 is the Application of Shane
17 Robinson for a License for Clinical
18 Social Worker by Examination.

19 Based on Executive Session
20 deliberations, I believe the Board
21 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
22 a provisional endorsement license as
23 drafted by counsel to this Applicant.

24 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

25 I will entertain a motion. Could I

1 have a motion, please?

2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 So moved.

4 DR. BEHUN:

5 Second.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7 Could we have the vote, please?

8

9 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun,

10 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;

11 Early, aye; Evans, aye; Martin, aye;

12 Moyer, aye.

13 [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the
14 motion. Eric DeCriscio abstained from voting on the
15 motion.]

16 ***

17 [Erika Evans, Ph.D., LMFT, Vice Chair, exited the
18 meeting at 11:33 a.m.]

19 ***

20 [A Formal Hearing was held from 11:33 a.m. until
21 12:13 p.m. in the Matter of the Application of Jill
22 Kreimeyer, Case No. 23-69-006789.]

23 ***

24 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
25 at 12:13 p.m., the Board entered into Executive

1 Session with Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,
2 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
3 deliberations and to receive the advice of counsel.
4 The Board entered into public session at 12:21 p.m.]

5 MR. BARRETT:

6 Item 32 on the agenda, a hearing in the
7 Matter of Jill Kreimeyer, Case No. 23-
8 69-006789.

9 Based on Executive Session
10 deliberations, I believe the Board
11 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
12 the licensure at this time.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 The Board will entertain that motion.
15 Could I have a motion, please?

16 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 So moved.

18 DR. BEHUN:

19 Second.

20 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

21 Is there any further discussion, Board
22 members? Seeing none. Could I have
23 the vote, please?

24

25 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

1 members? Hearing none. Could we have
2 the vote, please?

3
4 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
5 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
6 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

7 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
8 voting on the motion.]

9 ***

10 MR. BARRETT:

11 Item 14 is the Application of Eddily
12 Camilo Terrero for a Professional
13 Counselor by Examination Application.

14 I believe, based on Executive
15 Session deliberations, the Board Chair
16 would entertain a motion to
17 provisionally deny this Application.

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 The Board Chair will entertain that
20 motion. Could I have a motion, please?

21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 So moved.

23 DR. BEHUN:

24 Second.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

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

4
5 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
6 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
7 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

8 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
9 voting on the motion.]

10 ***

11 MR. BARRETT:

12 Item 15 is the Application for a
13 Professional Counselor by Examination
14 of Roberto Cedano Cedano.

15 Based on Executive Session
16 deliberations, I believe the Board
17 Chair would entertain a motion to
18 provisionally deny this Application.

19 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

20 I'll entertain that motion. Could I
21 have a motion, please?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

23 So moved.

24 DR. BEHUN:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Any discussion, Board members? There
3 is none. Could we have the vote,
4 please?

5

6 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
7 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
8 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

9 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
10 voting on the motion.]

11

12 MR. BARRETT:

13 Item 16 is the Application of Rebecca
14 Hollenbach for a License to Practice as
15 a Marriage & Family Therapist by
16 Examination.

17 Based on Executive Session
18 deliberations, I believe the Board
19 Chair would entertain a motion to
20 provisionally deny this Application.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 Could I have a motion, please?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24 So moved.

25 DR. BEHUN:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

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

5
6 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
7 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
8 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

9 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
10 voting on the motion.]

11 ***

12 Review of Applications - Act 41 Review

13 MR. BARRETT:

14 Item 17 is an Act 41 Application for
15 Licensure as a Social Worker of Arlene
16 Hayles.

17 Based on Executive Session
18 deliberations, I believe the Board
19 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
20 the Application.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 I will entertain that motion. Would
23 somebody give me a motion, please?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 DR. BEHUN:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 Any discussion, Board members? Seeing
5 none. Could I have the vote, please?

6
7 Santiago, abstain; Claggett, aye;
8 Behun, abstain; Boyer, nay; DeCriscio,
9 abstain; Early, aye; Martin, nay.

10 [The motion failed. Michelle Santiago, Richard
11 Behun, and Eric DeCriscio abstained from voting on
12 the motion. Farida Boyer and Linda Martin opposed
13 the motion.]

14 ***

15 MR. BARRETT:

16 Based on that vote, I believe the Board
17 Chair would entertain a motion to table
18 the Application at item 17 of Arlene
19 Hayles.

20 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

21 The Chair will entertain that motion.
22 Could I have a motion, please?

23 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

24 So moved.

25 DR. BEHUN:

1 Second.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 No discussion. Could we have the vote,
4 please, to table this item?

5

6 Santiago, yea; Claggett, aye; Behun,
7 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,
8 aye; Martin, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

11 MR. BARRETT:

12 Based on Executive Session discussions
13 and the outcome of the last
14 Application, we should also just do a
15 motion to table item 18, Leiko Low.

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17 I will entertain that motion to table
18 the Applicant at 18.

19 May I have a motion, please?

20 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

21 So moved.

22 DR. BEHUN:

23 Second.

24 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

25 Any further discussion. Could we have

1 the vote, please, to table this
2 Applicant at item 18?

3
4 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
5 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,
6 aye; Martin, aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8 ***

9 MR. BARRETT:

10 Item 19 is the Application of Sean
11 Delaney for a Social Worker by
12 Examination. This one was previously
13 considered at the January 16 Board
14 meeting. This is another one where
15 counsel needed to meet with the Board
16 to discuss the rationale, so there is
17 no further action needed and that vote
18 on January 16 will stay in place.

19 ***

20 MR. BARRETT:

21 Item 20 is the Social Worker by
22 Examination of Stephanie Leon.

23 Based on Executive Session
24 deliberations, I believe the Board
25 Chair would entertain a motion to deny

1 licensure under Act 41.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 I will entertain that motion. Could I
4 have a motion, please?

5 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

6 So moved.

7 DR. BEHUN:

8 Second.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 Any additional discussion, Board
11 members? Seeing none. Could we have
12 the vote, please?

13

14 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
15 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
16 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

17 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
18 voting on the motion.]

19

20 MR. BARRETT:

21 Item 21 is the Application of Denise
22 Brown for a Professional Counselor by
23 Endorsement.

24

25 Based on Executive Session
deliberations, I believe the Board

1 Chair would entertain a motion to grant
2 the license under Act 41.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 I will entertain that motion. Could I
5 have a motion, please?

6 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

7 So moved.

8 DR. BEHUN:

9 Second.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 Any further discussion, Board members?
12 There is none. Could we have the vote,
13 please?

14
15 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
16 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
17 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20 ***

21 MR. BARRETT:

22 Item 22 is the Application of Loni
23 Nelson-Bounds Act 41 Professional
24 Counselor by Endorsement.

25 Based on Executive Session

1 deliberations, I believe the Board
2 Chair would entertain a motion to deny
3 this Application under Act 41.

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 I'll entertain that motion. Could I
6 have a motion?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 DR. BEHUN:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Any further discussion? Seeing none.
13 Could we have the vote, please?

14

15 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
16 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
17 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20

21 MR. BARRETT:

22 Item 23 is the Professional Counselor
23 by Endorsement of Merritt Reid.

24

25 Based on Executive Session
deliberations, I believe the Board

1 Chair would entertain a motion to
2 provisionally deny this Application
3 under Act 41.

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 I'll entertain that motion. Could I
6 have a motion, please?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 DR. BEHUN:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Any further discussion, Board members?
13 Seeing none. Could we have the vote,
14 please?

15

16 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
17 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
18 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

19 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
20 voting on the motion.]

21

22 MR. BARRETT:

23 Item 24 is the Application for a
24 Professional Counselor by Endorsement
25 of Rachael Nguyen.

1 Based on Executive Session
2 deliberations, I believe the Board
3 Chair would entertain a motion to
4 provisionally deny the Application.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 May I have a motion, please?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 DR. BEHUN:

10 Second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Any further discussion? Seeing none.

13 Could we have the vote, please?

14

15 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

16 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;

17 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
19 voting on the motion.]

20

21 MR. BARRETT:

22 Item 25 is the Application for a
23 Professional Counselor by Endorsement
24 of Rachel Pipes. This one is another
25 one that was on the January 16, 2024

1 meeting that Board Counsel needed to
2 confirm with the Board, so there's no
3 vote that is needed on that one.

4 ***

5 MR. BARRETT:

6 Item 26 is the Application of Tina
7 Tucker for a Professional Counselor by
8 Endorsement.

9 Based on Executive Session
10 deliberations, I believe the Board
11 Chair would entertain a motion to
12 provisionally deny this Application.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 Could I have a motion, please?

15 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 So moved.

17 DR. BEHUN:

18 Second.

19 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

20 Any discussion, Board members? Could
21 we have the vote, please?

22
23 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
24 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
25 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

1 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
2 voting on the motion.]

3 ***

4 MR. BARRETT:

5 Item 27 is the Application to Practice
6 as a Marriage & Family Therapist by
7 Endorsement of Bryana Kappadakunnel.

8 I believe, based on Executive
9 Session deliberations, the Board Chair
10 would entertain a motion to
11 provisionally deny this Application.

12 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

13 May I have a motion, please?

14 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

15 So moved.

16 DR. BEHUN:

17 Second.

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 Any discussion? Seeing none. Could we
20 have the vote, please?

21

22 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
23 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
24 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

25 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from

1 voting on the motion.]

2 ***

3 MR. BARRETT:

4 Item 28 is the Application of Mishka
5 Kimball to Practice as a Marriage &
6 Family Therapist by Endorsement.

7 Based on Executive Session
8 deliberations, I believe the Board
9 Chair would entertain a motion to
10 provisionally deny the Application.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Could I have a motion, please?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

14 So moved.

15 DR. BEHUN:

16 Second.

17 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

18 Any discussion? Seeing none. Could we
19 have the vote, please?

20
21 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
22 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
23 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

24 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
25 voting on the motion.]

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MR. BARRETT:

Item 29 is the Application of Mojdeh Mansoori to Practice as a Marriage & Family Therapist by Endorsement.

Based on Executive Session deliberations, I believe the Board Chair would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Application.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

May I have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

DR. BEHUN:

Second.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Any discussion, Board members? Seeing none. The vote, please?

Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain; Early, aye; Martin, aye.

[The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from voting on the motion.]

1 Review of Applications - Act 41 Ratification

2 MR. BARRETT:

3 Under Act 41 Ratifications, item 30, I
4 believe, based on Executive Session
5 deliberations, the Board Chair would
6 entertain a motion to Ratify the
7 decision of the Act 41 Committee to
8 grant licensure to Anna Talamo as a
9 Marriage & Family Therapist.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 I believe that I will entertain that
12 motion. Could I have a motion, please?

13 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

14 So moved.

15 DR. BEHUN:

16 Second.

17 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

18 Any discussion, Board members? Seeing
19 none. Could we have the vote, please?

20
21 Santiago, abstain; Claggett, aye;

22 Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio,
23 abstain; Early, aye; Martin, aye.

24 [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago and Eric
25 DeCriscio abstained from voting on the motion.]

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Review of Applications - Preapproved Provider of
Continuing Education

MR. BARRETT:

At item 31, based on Executive Session
deliberations, I believe the Board
Chair would approve the preapproved
provider of continuing education, Sun
Point Foundation.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

May I have a motion, please?

ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

DR. BEHUN:

Second.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Any discussion, Board members? Okay,
could we have the vote, please?

Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,
aye; Martin, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Regulatory Report

1 [Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided a
2 Regulatory Status Report for the Board's review. He
3 also referred to 16A-6923 693 regarding the general
4 revision package. He informed Board members that
5 Regulatory Counsel, Jacqueline Wolfgang, needed
6 additional time for the drafting of the regulations
7 and will place the matter back on the agenda for the
8 April Board meeting for further discussion.]

9

10 [The Board recessed from 12:43 p.m. until 12:57 p.m.]

11

12 Appointment - The Trevor Project

13 [Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director,
14 National Association of Social Workers Pennsylvania
15 Chapter, stated NASW has had an interest in banning
16 conversion therapy within the Commonwealth of
17 Pennsylvania and pursued that through legislative
18 actions but found the legislature too deadlocked to
19 take much action.

20 Ms. Byrd noted pursuing it through small local
21 ordinances and/or executive action, including
22 Governor Wolf's Executive Order in 2022. She was not
23 worried with the licensing Board, because she assumed
24 there would not be any licensed practitioners
25 engaging in that practice. She was worried about

1 practitioners from religious organizations or
2 unlicensed practitioners engaging in unethical
3 practice.

4 Troy Stevenson, Director of State Advocacy
5 Campaigns, The Trevor Project, informed Board members
6 of their work on ending conversion therapy across the
7 country for over a decade and are focusing on
8 Pennsylvania.

9 Mr. Stevenson addressed a research report over
10 the last five years, where there is a perception that
11 conversion therapy is a part of the past and done
12 only by religious practitioners or some sort of faith
13 leader in churches, but have found that licensed
14 practitioners around the country are practicing
15 conversion therapy.

16 Mr. Stevenson reported that it has been growing
17 exponentially over the last decade and have
18 identified around 1,320 practitioners across the
19 country, both licensed and unlicensed. He noted
20 hiring an outside contractor to verify the
21 information and forwarded the same to their own
22 research professionals to receive further
23 verification.

24 Mr. Stevenson stated 88 individuals were
25 identified in Pennsylvania, noting 59 were licensed

1 psychologists and 21 licensed social workers. He
2 noted also finding a network of religious
3 practitioners who will actually refer to licensed
4 practitioners. He reported that the biggest network
5 of individuals were in the western Pennsylvania and
6 eastern Ohio regions with Allegheny County being the
7 largest county identified.

8 Mr. Stevenson stated Governor Wolf prepared an
9 Executive Order on funding, where no state or
10 national funding could go to conversion therapy,
11 along with allowing state agencies to review further
12 and provide education. He noted state prosecutors
13 are willing to take licensure complaints.

14 Mr. Stevenson informed Board members that The
15 Trevor Project continues lobbying in the state
16 legislature to get this codified into law and working
17 with Governor Shapiro's office. He stated they are
18 approaching all of the boards of licensure with their
19 discovery and to help.

20 Ms. Byrd stated the information concerning
21 Pennsylvania is something that resides with the
22 Board, because the greatest number of practitioners
23 in Pennsylvania were identified as social workers,
24 marriage and family, or professional counselors. She
25 reported no complaints had been filed.

1 Ms. Byrd addressed a provision in the Executive
2 Order under responsibilities of the Commonwealth
3 agencies, where the Department of State is directed
4 to inform licensed healthcare practitioners in
5 Pennsylvania that the Commonwealth discourages the
6 provision and reimbursement for conversion therapy.
7 The Department of State shall also inform the public
8 of mechanisms available to report licensed
9 professionals that cause harm to patients as a result
10 of conversion therapy.

11 Ms. Martin noted being in Allegheny County and
12 requested the number of social workers and licensed
13 social workers providing conversion therapy in
14 Allegheny County and the total for the surrounding
15 counties in southwest Pennsylvania. She also
16 requested clarification that the information was
17 obtained from the practitioners' websites.

18 Mr. Stevenson reported 13 in Allegheny, 7 in
19 Beaver, 6 in Westmoreland, 1 in Greensburg, and 0 in
20 Washington. He noted the information was obtained
21 through their website or through the referral list.

22 Chair Santiago asked whether their research shows
23 the individuals are receiving their degrees from
24 brick-and-mortar schools or online programs. Mr.
25 Stevenson could not provide that information.

1 Mr. Barrett informed Board members that
2 enforcement-related issues or complaints should be
3 directed to the Professional Compliance Office (PCO).
4 He cautioned members of the Board to not speak or
5 give personal opinions that may be viewed as the
6 opinion of the Board.

7 Chair Santiago asked whether the individuals are
8 working in agencies or in private practice. Ms. Byrd
9 explained that they would be in private practice for
10 the most part, like group practice, as opposed to
11 agency settings, because agencies would not have the
12 same kind of information available.

13 Mr. Stevenson commented that conversion therapy
14 is not taught at any university in the country or any
15 degree certificate granting institution. He noted it
16 to be a mix of practice individuals that are taking
17 it up on their own.

18 Ms. Byrd had statements from NASW, the American
19 Psychiatric Association, the Psychology Association,
20 the Counselors Association, the American Family
21 Therapy Association, and probably about 20 other
22 national associations that are taking a strong stance
23 against the practice of conversion therapy.

24 Mr. DeCriscio requested current information at
25 the federal level with Congress regarding the

1 practice of conversion therapy.

2 Mr. Stevenson noted two pieces of legislation
3 trying to go through Congress.

4 Ms. Byrd reporting hearing of at least a couple
5 of bills attempting to force insurance companies to
6 reimburse for conversion therapy or mandate
7 conversion therapy in certain cases, but did not
8 believe those bills have moved.

9 Mr. Stevenson reported two pieces of federal
10 legislation that had not moved concerning funding and
11 consumer fraud, neither of which would relate to
12 licensure because licensure is handled at the state
13 level.

14 Ms. McCarthy referred to her meeting with Mr.
15 Stevenson discussing the The Trevor Project's
16 concerns. She noted describing their complaint
17 process if the organization wants to make a complaint
18 about any specific licensee, noting prosecution
19 reviews every single complaint and routinely
20 investigates complaints with the use of their
21 investigators.

22 Ms. McCarthy stated prosecution cannot review
23 past complaints, because it is confidential until
24 formal charges are filed or formal Board
25 adjudications are issued. She noted not being aware

1 of any Board adjudications on this topic, but if they
2 do become aware of the specific licensees and
3 specific complaints, the matters will be
4 investigated.

5 Ms. Martin referred to Ms. Byrd's comment of
6 conversion therapy being an unethical practice
7 according to the social work code and asked whether
8 she had the number of the social work code that says
9 it would be unethical practice. Mr. Barrett did not
10 want to go down a path where the Board is reaching
11 predetermined legal conclusions on the interpretation
12 of their law. He wanted to ensure the Board does not
13 give an opinion on an issue that may come before the
14 Board in a hypothetical or advisory situation.

15 Mr. Barrett explained that any complaints before
16 the Board will be in the form of an order to show
17 cause detailing the section a licensee is charged
18 with violating, noting the Board will have time to
19 review those allegations. He again noted that anyone
20 who is aware of any violations should report those to
21 PCO for enforcement. He further explained that
22 prosecution will make a decision as to whether a
23 violation has occurred, and then the Board will be
24 able to determine that decision based on the facts.

25 Ms. Early requested information concerning the

1 repercussions of someone providing conversion therapy
2 but not licensed in Pennsylvania or by any other
3 board. Ms. Byrd noted there are regular
4 repercussions for practicing without a license, but
5 for conversion therapy, if somebody was operating
6 within their professional scope, like a faith
7 practitioner, it would depend on the law itself for
8 conversion therapy. She mentioned someone under a
9 local ordinance might go to the county, where there
10 is a fine, specifically in Allegheny County.

11 Ms. Byrd reported bans in Philadelphia,
12 Lancaster, and several other municipalities around
13 the Commonwealth, but at the statewide level, other
14 than the purview of the Executive Order, which
15 forbids any state funding from being used and directs
16 insurance companies not to reimburse for conversion
17 therapy, there's no statewide law prohibiting it.

18 Mr. Stevenson commented that all of the
19 legislation and municipal ordinances very
20 specifically consider licensed practitioners because
21 of the First Amendment religious aspects of faith-
22 based practitioners.

23 Acting Commissioner Claggett thanked The Trevor
24 Project for their presentation.]

25

1 [A Formal Hearing was held from 1:25 p.m. until
2 2:29 p.m. in the Matter of the Provisional Denial of
3 Renee Victoria Gibson, Case No. 23-69-006776.]

4 ***

5 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
6 at 2:29 p.m., the Board entered into Executive
7 Session with Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,
8 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
9 deliberations and to receive the advice of counsel.
10 The Board entered into public session at 2:44 p.m.]

11 ***

12 MR. BARRETT:

13 Item 12 is the Application for a
14 Clinical Social Worker by Examination
15 of Shane Robinson.

16 Based on Executive Session
17 deliberation, I believe the Board Chair
18 would entertain a motion to have Board
19 staff send the discrepancy consistent
20 with discussions in Executive Session.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 I entertain that motion. Could I have
23 a motion, please?

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 DR. BEHUN:

2 Second.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 Any further discussion, Board members?
5 Seeing none. Could we have the vote,
6 please?

7

8 Santiago, yea; Claggett, aye; Behun,
9 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain;
10 Early, aye; Martin, aye.

11 [The motion carried. Eric DeCriscio abstained from
12 voting on the motion.]

13

14 MR. BARRETT:

15 Item 34 on the agenda is a hearing in
16 the Matter of Renee Victoria Gibson,
17 Case No. 23-69-006776.

18 I believe the Board Chair would
19 entertain a motion to direct Board
20 Counsel to draft an Adjudication and
21 Order consistent with discussions in
22 Executive Session.

23 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

24 I absolutely do. Could I have a
25 motion, please?

1 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

2 So moved.

3 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

4 Could I have a second?

5 DR. BEHUN:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8 Any discussion, Board members? Seeing
9 none. Could we have a voice vote,
10 please?

11

12 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
13 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Early,
14 aye; Martin, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16

17 Adjournment

18 MR. BARRETT:

19 I believe the Board Chair would
20 entertain a motion to adjourn.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 I definitely will entertain that
23 motion.

24 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Meeting is adjourned. Thank you for
3 your work today. See you all next
4 month.

5 ***

6 [There being no further business, the State Board of
7 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
8 Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at
9 2:50 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.



Derek Richmond,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

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

March 12, 2024

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
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8		
9		
10	9:00	Executive Session
11	11:00	Return to Open Session
12		
13	11:13	Official Call to Order
14		
15	11:13	Roll Call of Board Members
16		
17	11:14	Introduction of Attendees
18		
19	11:15	Approval of Minutes
20		
21	11:16	Report of Board Counsel
22		
23	11:26	Report of Board Chair
24		
25	11:27	Report of Board Administrator
26		
27	11:29	Review of Applications
28		
29	11:33	Appointment - Formal Hearing - Jill
30	12:13	Kreimeyer
31		
32	12:13	Executive Session
33	12:21	Return to Open Session
34		
35	12:24	Review of Applications (cont.)
36		
37	12:42	Regulatory Report
38		
39	12:43	Recess
40	12:57	Return to Open Session
41		
42	12:59	Appointment - The Trevor Project
43		
44	1:25	Appointment - Formal Hearing - Renee
45	2:29	Victoria Gibson
46		
47	2:29	Executive Session
48	2:44	Return to Open Session
49		
50		

STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS,
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS,
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
REFERENCE INDEX
(cont.)
March 12, 2024

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TIME	AGENDA
2:44	Motions
2:50	Adjournment