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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: 11:00 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

July 16, 2024

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

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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 - Absent
18
19

20 BUREAU PERSONNEL:

21
22 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel
23 Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
24 Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
25 and Prosecution Liaison
26 Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
27 Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
28 Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
29 Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
30 Adrienne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board
31 Prosecutor
32 Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
33 Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director,
34 Department of State
35 Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator
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 Elizabeth Micciulla, MA, NCC, ATR-P, CAADC,
47 Governmental Affairs Chair, Pennsylvania Art
48 Therapy Association
49 James Waiters, MPA, LSW
50 Lis Cristina Santamaria Garcia

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State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists,
and Professional Counselors
July 16, 2024

ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

- Eric W. Owns, PhD, West Chester University
- Amy Hetrick, MSW, LSW, CTP
- Laura Clark
- Sara Hetrick
- Nicole Setzer
- Emily Cowfer, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

1 ***

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

5 July 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 Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board
10 Counsel, on behalf of Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board
11 Counsel, for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
12 deliberations on a number of matters currently
13 pending before the Board and to receive the advice of
14 counsel. The Board entered into public session at
15 11:00 a.m.]

16 ***

17 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
18 Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
19 Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
20 Tuesday, July 16, 2024. Michelle Santiago, Psy.D.,
21 NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, called the meeting to order
22 at 11:00 a.m.

23 ***

24 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, on
25 behalf of Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,

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

4 Ms. Walter also noted the Board entered into
5 quasi-judicial deliberations to receive the advice of
6 counsel and to consider matters that are currently on
7 the agenda.]

8 ***
9 Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
10 [Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator, provided a
11 roll call of Board members and introduction of
12 attendees. A quorum of Board members was present.]

13 ***
14 Approval of minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting
15 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, on
16 behalf of Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,
17 noted the minutes from the June 11, 2024 meeting will
18 be tabled until the September 2024 meeting.]

19 ***
20 Report of Prosecutorial Division
21 [Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board
22 Prosecutor and Board Prosecution Liaison, informed
23 Board members that Patrick Greene will be moving into
24 the prosecution liaison position at the September
25 2024 meeting.]

1 Ms. McCarthy presented the Consent Agreements for
2 Case No. 23-69-001638 and Case No. 24-69-008442.]

3 MS. WALTER:

4 I believe the Board would entertain a
5 motion to approve the Consent
6 Agreements at Case No. 23-69-001638 at
7 number 2 on the agenda and Case No. 24-
8 69-008442 at number 3 on the agenda.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 Could I have a motion, please?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 So moved.

13 DR. BEHUN:

14 Second.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16 Any additional discussion? There is
17 none. Sarah, could we please have the
18 roll call vote?

19

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

23 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
24 name at number 2 is Allyson Monarch, LMFT.]

25

1 Report of Board Counsel - Proposed Adjudication and
2 Order

3 MS. WALTER:

4 Number 4 on the agenda, Case No. 24-69-
5 000516, Robert Groman.

6 I believe the Board would entertain
7 a motion to adopt the Proposed
8 Adjudication and Order.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 May I have a motion, please?

11 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

12 So moved.

13 DR. BEHUN:

14 Second.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16 Any further discussion? Sarah, could
17 we have the roll call vote, please?

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

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

24 ***

25 Review of Applications

1 MS. WALTER:

2 I believe the Board would entertain a
3 motion at number 9 on the agenda to
4 direct the Board administrator to issue
5 a discrepancy to the Application of
6 Kellyanne Rodriguez for a Social Worker
7 by Examination.

8 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

9 Could I have a motion, please?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 DR. BEHUN:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

15 Any additional discussion? Hearing
16 none. The roll call vote, please.

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

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 MS. WALTER:

24 I believe the Board would entertain a
25 motion to provisionally deny the

1 following applications at numbers 10
2 through 12 and 14 on the agenda:
3 Number 10, Clinical Social Worker by
4 Examination of Lindsay Mosaky; number
5 11, Associate Professional Counselor by
6 Examination of Christie Edwards; number
7 12, Associate Professional Counselor by
8 Examination of Nicole Bialecki; and
9 number 14, Professional Counselor by
10 Examination of Jeffrey Jackson.

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 further discussion, Board members,
19 on those agenda items? Sarah, could we
20 have the roll call vote, please?

21

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

25 [The motion carried unanimously.]

1 ***

2 MS. WALTER:

3 Agenda number 13. I believe the Board
4 would entertain a motion to approve the
5 Application for a Professional
6 Counselor by Examination of Alayna
7 Wacker.

8 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

9 May I have a motion, please?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 DR. BEHUN:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

15 Any further discussion, Board members?
16 There is none. Sarah, could we have
17 the roll call vote, please?

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

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 ***

24 MS. WALTER:

25 Number 15 on the agenda, the

1 Professional Counselor by Examination
2 of Vanay Frederick-Ellis.

3 I believe the Board would entertain
4 a motion to table this agenda item to
5 obtain more information about the
6 education of the applicant.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8 Could I have a motion?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 So moved.

11 DR. BEHUN:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 Any further discussion? Sarah, the
15 roll call vote, please?

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 Review of Applications - Act 41 Review

23 MS. WALTER:

24 I believe the Board would entertain a
25 motion to approve the Applications at

1 numbers 16 and 18 on the agenda.
2 Number 16, Professional Counselor by
3 Endorsement of Carmen Getty; number 18,
4 Professional Counselor by Endorsement
5 of Jamie Lough.

6 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

7 Could I have a motion, please?

8 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

9 So moved.

10 DR. BEHUN:

11 Second.

12 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

13 Any further discussion, Board members?
14 There is none. Sarah, could we have
15 the roll call vote, please?

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

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MS. WALTER:

23 I believe the Board would entertain a
24 motion to provisionally deny the
25 Application for a Professional

1 Counselor by Endorsement of Grazia
2 Dimauro, number 17 on the agenda and
3 also the Application of Sandra Metz for
4 practice as a Marriage & Family
5 Therapist by Endorsement at number 20
6 on the agenda.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8 May I have a motion, please?

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 So moved.

11 DR. BEHUN:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 Any further discussion, Board members?
15 There is none. Could we have the roll
16 call vote, please?

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

21 [The motion carried unanimously.]

22 ***

23 MS. WALTER:

24 I believe the Board would entertain a
25 motion to grant a Provisional License

1 to Michael Titterness, the Professional
2 Counselor by Endorsement Applicant.

3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

4 So moved.

5 DR. BEHUN:

6 Second.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

8 Is there any further discussion, Board
9 members? Hearing none. Sarah, could
10 we have the roll call vote, please?

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

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 Review of Applications - Act 41 Reconsideration

18 MS. WALTER:

19 I believe the Board would entertain a
20 motion to extend the provisional
21 denials and grant the Applications for
22 the following individuals: Number 21,
23 Professional Counselor by Endorsement
24 of Ginger Brown; number 22, Marriage &
25 Family Therapist by Endorsement of

1 Bryana Kappadakunnel; number 23,
2 Marriage & Family Therapist by
3 Endorsement of Mishka Kimball; number
4 24, Marriage & Family Therapist by
5 Endorsement of Mojdeh Mansoori; number
6 25, Marriage & Family Therapist by
7 Endorsement of Sarah Clark; and number
8 26, Marriage & Family Therapist by
9 Endorsement of Stephanie Katsur.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 May I have a motion, please?

12 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

13 So moved.

14 DR. BEHUN:

15 Second.

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

17 Any further discussion? There is none.
18 Sarah, could we have the roll call
19 vote, please?

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

24 [The motion carried unanimously.]

25 ***

1 Miscellaneous

2 MS. WALTER:

3 I believe the Board would entertain a
4 motion to approve number 27 on the
5 agenda, which is a Request for
6 Exception under § 47.12c(6) of Nicholas
7 Joseph & Anne Miller-Uueda.

8 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

9 Could I have a motion, please?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 DR. BEHUN:

13 Second.

14 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

15 Additional discussion? There is none.
16 Sarah, could we have the roll call
17 vote, please?

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

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 ***

24 Miscellaneous - VA National Standards

25 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,

1 noted the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
2 National Standards of Practice for the Board's
3 review. She announced that the VA is proposing a
4 regulation for National Standards of Practice in the
5 VA system for marriage and family therapists (MFTs).]

6 ***

7 Miscellaneous - Travel Approval - Pennsylvania
8 Counseling Association's 56th Annual Conference
9 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel,
10 noted the Pennsylvania Counseling Association's 56th
11 Annual Conference October 25-27 in Harrisburg, PA.]

12 MS. WALTER:

13 I believe the Board would entertain a
14 motion to approve travel and expenses
15 for the Board administrator and two
16 additional Board members to travel to
17 participate in the Pennsylvania
18 Counseling Association's 56th Annual
19 Conference.

20 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

21 Could I have a motion, please?

22 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

23 So moved.

24 DR. BEHUN:

25 Second.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 Additional discussion? There is none.
3 Could we have the roll call vote,
4 please?

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

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10 ***

11 New Business

12 [Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel, on
13 behalf of Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel,
14 referred to the associate LPC and associate LMFT
15 renewal and reactivation requirements for the Board's
16 review. She stated the Board administrator is
17 working on constructing applications for renewal and
18 reactivation for the associate LPC and associate LMFT
19 in the Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS).

20 Ms. Walter reported that the applications will be
21 ready when renewals open at the beginning of
22 January.]

23 ***

24 Regulatory Report

25 [Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,

1 informed Board members that they did not receive any
2 comments on the exposure draft for 16A-6923 regarding
3 general revisions. She hoped to start working on the
4 volunteer license regulation in the next six months.

5 Ms. Wolfgang referred to the licensure by
6 endorsement regulation, noting she is prioritizing
7 the general revision package and now has the Act 4
8 package but is hoping to work on that in between the
9 others.

10 Ms. Wolfgang reported that the Conversion Therapy
11 Statement of Policy was published in the *Pennsylvania*
12 *Bulletin* on June 8. She referred to the general
13 revisions and asked Board members to review the list
14 of stakeholders and associations to ensure it is
15 complete.

16 Ms. Wolfgang informed Board members that the
17 preamble is almost completed for the Act 4 regulation
18 and hoped to have that finalized for the next Board
19 meeting. She noted a glitch to drafting the Act 4
20 regulation and reported a lot of overlapping
21 provisions. She mentioned that it makes it difficult
22 from a regulatory standpoint, because once one gets
23 published, the other one will sort of change and have
24 to be read in conjunction with the other one.

25 Ms. Wolfgang noted the amendments in the general

1 revisions will take effect and would need read both
2 together and asked whether the Board wanted to merge
3 the two regulations. She suggested merging them into
4 one, noting the downside is that it will hold off the
5 general revision package because of work that needs
6 done on the Act 4 regulations.

7 Ms. Wolfgang discussed the downside of not
8 overlapping it, noting Board members are going to
9 have to read both regulations in conjunction as they
10 are drafting Act 4.

11 Chair Santiago recommended merging the
12 regulations.

13 Ms. Wolfgang hoped to get the general revision
14 package out as proposed by the fall but may not hit
15 that target if they are merged.

16 Ms. Early agreed with merging the regulations but
17 requested information concerning the consequences of
18 that delay.

19 Ms. Wolfgang drafted the annex for Act 4 and
20 would like to get it moving as soon as possible but
21 believed there will be a lot of back and forth. She
22 mentioned that merging could delay the general
23 revisions package six months.

24 Dr. Evans asked whether it would be easier for
25 the public and everybody else to digest if they keep

1 it separate.

2 Ms. Wolfgang believed that it would be easier to
3 digest each one individually, but there are some
4 provisions being amended in each package, so the
5 public would be looking at a package that is not
6 really a complete picture of what is going to be
7 amended in six months.

8 Ms. Wolfgang explained that looking at both of
9 them at the same time and one big package would allow
10 them to see the changes together. She again
11 mentioned that the downside would be that it is a
12 long and cumbersome package to get through and would
13 cause a delay.

14 Chair Santiago asked what the downside of
15 choosing A versus B would be for applicants or people
16 interested in coming to Pennsylvania pertaining to
17 the Counseling Compact.

18 Ms. Wolfgang explained that applicants would not
19 have a good picture if they do not look at the
20 general revisions package and just looking at the Act
21 4 regulation and supervision requirements. She
22 further explained that it may impact applicants,
23 where they are adding the 6-hour requirement for
24 supervisors, which would be reflected in the general
25 revisions package but not in the Act 4 package, where

1 they may not be aware of that amendment if they were
2 not also following that regulatory package.

3 Chair Santiago referred to the compact and
4 commented that people are not going to look deeply
5 into the rules and regulations and requested
6 information regarding the easiest way for someone
7 trying to apply for licensure when all of those
8 factors are put together.

9 Ms. Walter deferred that question to Mr. Barrett
10 for the next meeting, but commented that she did not
11 want to delay any of the regulations based on
12 legislation that had not happened and believed it
13 would be best to move forward with the regulations.

14 Ms. Wolfgang offered to put the general revisions
15 package on the agenda again for the next meeting and
16 suggested Board members have a discussion regarding
17 Act 4, so they can look at both packages to make a
18 better-informed decision on whether to merge or not.
19 She provided a draft of Act 4, noting the Board has
20 to address licensure requirements, supervisor
21 qualifications, the supervision plan, fees, renewal,
22 and continuing education.

23 Ms. Wolfgang referred to the annex and informed
24 Board members that they have to update the whole
25 entire regulation to include the associate licenses

1 in all of the other regulations throughout Chapter 48
2 and Chapter 49. She requested Board members review
3 everything between now and the next meeting to make
4 sure everything is appropriate for each licensure
5 class.

6 Ms. Wolfgang referred to § 47.4 licensure fees,
7 noting Act 4 establishes licensure fees for
8 professional counselors and marriage and family
9 therapists. She noted the initial application fee is
10 \$75 and renewal fee is \$95 and asked whether the
11 Board wanted to consider something different. She
12 also added the associate licensure classes to the
13 \$75.

14 Ms. Wolfgang explained that the statute
15 specifically establishes \$75 because it is the
16 existing fee for other licensees on the Board. She
17 further explained that application fees are
18 determined based on how much manpower is put into
19 processing the applications.

20 Ms. Wolfgang mentioned that the Board may want to
21 address increasing all licensure classes when the
22 Bureau of Finance and Operations (BFO) presents their
23 annual report as to whether revenues are meeting or
24 exceeding expenditures.

25 Ms. Wolfgang explained that the regulation is for

1 associate marriage and family therapists and
2 professional counselors, and BFO would have to do an
3 analysis if they wanted to increase fees for all
4 licensure classes. She recommended starting out with
5 the statutory fee and reevaluating it when a biennial
6 renewal increase is necessary.

7 Chair Santiago requested Ms. Wolfgang provide
8 information at the next meeting as to when the Board
9 had its last fee increase.

10 Ms. Wolfgang referred to Chapter 49 under
11 definitions, noting the addition of associate
12 marriage and family therapist (AMFT). She mentioned
13 the possibility of including the definition of
14 supervision plan in this section and asked Board
15 member how they wanted to define supervision plan.

16 Ms. Wolfgang suggested keeping the definition
17 general in the regulations and including specifics in
18 the application. She provided a definition of
19 plan of supervision, where a plan of supervision
20 outlines the work setting, the supervisees job
21 description, including the nature of the supervisee
22 duties and qualifications and the supervisors'
23 responsibilities and qualifications.

24 Chair Santiago commented that the plan of
25 supervision needs to be more detailed, noting a

1 number of other states have a very detailed list that
2 makes it easier for applicants and supervisors to
3 know if they qualify or are getting a good supervisor
4 who knows what they are doing.

5 Ms. Wolfgang noted that they could get into the
6 meat of it within the text of the regulation but
7 cannot have requirements in a definition. She
8 mentioned Act 4 does reference some of what she
9 included in the potential definition and recommended
10 starting with her suggestion and tweaking it
11 afterwards.

12 Ms. Wolfgang referred to licensure requirements
13 and requested input from the Board on how to address
14 supervisors. She noted they have supervisor
15 requirements in § 48.14 and asked whether those
16 supervision requirements would be the appropriate
17 supervision requirements for this licensure class as
18 well.

19 Ms. Wolfgang suggested combining or cross-
20 referencing the standards for supervisor. She
21 mentioned there is also qualifications for
22 supervisors in § 48.3, noting the Board would have to
23 take into consideration that § 48.14 is a section
24 being revised on the general revisions. She
25 recommended cross-referencing those sections and

1 asked Board members whether they are okay with the
2 language with respect to the new licensure class.

3 Ms. Walter stated not all of the individuals are
4 going to receive a license, so there still may be
5 people receiving supervision without the AMFT or
6 ALPC. She commented that it is better for the
7 standards to be consistent.

8 Ms. Wolfgang asked whether they should change the
9 standards for all of them to be the same or have
10 different supervisor standards for the licensed class
11 versus the unlicensed class.

12 Mr. DeCriscio commented that they should be the
13 same, and Board members agreed.

14 Ms. Wolfgang mentioned that some supervisors
15 utilize a supervision plan and asked whether the
16 Board wanted to require that across the Board for
17 those who are licensed and unlicensed.

18 Mr. DeCriscio referred to a comment he made at a
19 prior meeting, where it is best practice to have a
20 written and signed supervision plan, and the Board
21 should create a template that supervisors could use
22 and implement, so they do not have to come up with
23 one themselves.

24 Ms. Wolfgang mentioned that it would be a lot
25 easier for the regulated community to understand the

1 standards if they were all the same, regardless of
2 whether they were licensed or not. She explained
3 that having one standard for unlicensed and one
4 standard for licensed would complicate the
5 regulations.

6 Ms. Wolfgang believed the Board has the statutory
7 authority to make the change for the unlicensed even
8 though the supervision plan is not specifically
9 required by law for the unlicensed.

10 Ms. Walter commented that there would essentially
11 be no difference between getting a license and not
12 getting a license. She noted the educational
13 requirements are the same, and if there is going to
14 be a new requirement for a supervision plan for an
15 unlicensed individual, § 48.13 will remain the same as
16 far as qualifications and requirements for the
17 supervisor.

18 Ms. Wolfgang asked whether it would be correct
19 that they were already doing this to a certain extent
20 and would not be an additional burden.

21 Ms. Boyer explained that AMFTs, as supervisors,
22 create a supervisor contract with each of their
23 supervisees and is essentially a plan on how they
24 plan to work together for the time they spend
25 together. She believed it is necessary to have a

1 guide with their supervisor, whether someone is going
2 to get a license or not.

3 Chair Santiago commented that it should be the
4 same across the board, and they should have a
5 supervision plan, whether it is professional
6 counselors, groups of social workers and marriage and
7 family therapists, or associate or unlicensed.

8 Ms. Boyer mentioned that it should be in the
9 regulations to make is clear for the supervisor and
10 the supervisee.

11 Ms. Walter stated the licensed individual under
12 Act 4 would have to work under the supervision of the
13 LMFT who directs their activities, so there might be
14 slight differences on Board authority over an
15 individual who is licensed as an AMFT and someone who
16 is not.

17 Ms. Wolfgang noted the statute for unlicensed is
18 general, and the Board's requirements are all
19 regulatory. She mentioned that the Board could
20 follow the rules that are set forth in the statute
21 for Act 4 for the licensees and unlicensed
22 individuals to keep it one standard. She asked
23 whether Board members agree to keep one standard for
24 both licensed and unlicensed, and Board members
25 agreed.

1 Ms. Wolfgang asked the Board to think everything
2 through when they contemplate merging because they
3 are not just drafting a standard for licensed
4 associate professionals but will be for the
5 unlicensed as well. She mentioned that the package
6 is getting a little bit bigger and broader and is
7 creeping into the general revisions and sort of leans
8 towards merging because of the revisions.

9 Ms. Wolfgang noted the rest of the revisions are
10 basically getting the standards up to speed for the
11 new licensure classes.

12 Chair Santiago referred to § 48.40 regarding a
13 question concerning exemption and waiver.

14 She noted the section references their schedule
15 of civil penalties. She noted that having that
16 licensure class would need to be updated to include
17 associate license but asked whether the Board wanted
18 to include that in this package or do a different
19 regulatory package.

20 Chair Santiago suggested having a longer document
21 that references other places and to put it all in at
22 one time. She noted they already have many people
23 with associate licenses without supervision
24 instructions.

25 Ms. Wolfgang mentioned that this part of the

1 regulation is not something that would hold anything
2 up. She noted that prosecution cannot refer to that
3 schedule of civil penalties but can still move
4 forward with discipline.

5 Ms. McCarthy agreed with Ms. Wolfgang and
6 believed it could be prosecuted without it being in
7 the schedule.

8 Ms. Wolfgang offered to see what is involved in
9 drafting it and come back to the Board with a
10 recommendation. She also reported adding AMFTs to
11 the 30 clock hours under continuing education.

12 Lis Cristina Santamaria Garcia asked whether
13 someone would need to first undergo the associate
14 license procedure and then be able to apply for the
15 license.

16 Ms. Wolfgang explained that they would go through
17 the application process.

18 Ms. Santamaria Garcia also asked whether it will
19 affect someone's ability to provide services if they
20 are currently able to work under supervision with
21 their master's degree and whether they would be
22 required to have an associate license.

23 Ms. Walter stated the Board cannot give an
24 advisory opinion and recommended Ms. Santamaria
25 Garcia read Act 4 relating to the requirements for an

1 associate licensed professional counselor or MFT.
2 She mentioned that Act 4 does not specifically
3 address individuals who are currently undertaking
4 their supervised clinical experience hours.

5 Ms. Wolfgang informed Board members that she did
6 the same thing for professional counselors. She
7 noted wanting to incorporate their discussions and
8 come back with more work on the professional
9 counselor requirements and supervision requirements
10 to make them all the same, and revisit it at the next
11 board meeting.

12 Chair Santiago asked whether Ms. Wolfgang needed
13 anymore supervision plans from other states.

14 Ms. Wolfgang offered to incorporate some of the
15 supervision plans Chair Santiago had into the
16 regulations. She was also looking at states that
17 already have regulations and requirements in place,
18 including New Jersey, to see if it fits Pennsylvania.
19 She offered to have the information available at the
20 September meeting.]

21

22 Legislative Report - No Report

23

24 Report of Board Chairperson

25 [Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair,

1 provided Board members with notes from the
2 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. She mentioned
3 that it was noted at the Summit that Pennsylvania has
4 decided to be under consideration for the Counseling
5 Compact.

6 Chair Santiago informed everyone of some kind of
7 kerfuffle with couples therapy not being covered for
8 marriage and family therapists by Highmark PPO Blue.]

9

10 Report of Acting Commissioner
11 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
12 Professional and Occupational Affairs, informed
13 everyone that licensees can now print their own
14 licenses after being issued. He noted the department
15 will continue to print licenses while they are in the
16 Pennsylvania Licensing System (PALS) but not after
17 they move to the new system. He also noted licensees
18 would receive a license through the mail that would
19 now be on white printer paper.

20 Acting Commissioner Claggett mentioned that the
21 license contains a quick response (QR) code, noting
22 the public will be directed to the PALS website to
23 verify the status of a license.

24 Acting Commissioner Claggett announced that all
25 board websites across the Department of State have

1 been updated.]

2 ***

3 Report of Board Administrator

4 [Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair,
5 requested information regarding how many applications
6 have been completed for associate licenses and how
7 many are out there.

8 Ms. McNeill reported issuing 194 associate LPC
9 licenses and 7 associate MFT licenses as of yesterday
10 but did not have a number for those not yet complete
11 or issued.]

12 ***

13 Public Comment

14 [Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS, referred to the prior
15 question from Ms. Santamaria Garcia when she asked
16 whether someone had to be a licensed associate before
17 applying for the license but did not believe the
18 answer yes to be true.

19 Ms. Walter explained that the Board cannot give
20 an advisory opinion to members of the public, but
21 when reading through Act 4 in its entirety, there is
22 not a provision in there similar to what Ms. Boyer
23 mentioned.

24 Ms. Santamaria Garcia asked whether people will
25 be able to use the hours they have already completed,

1 and if there will come a time when the hours that
2 people have completed toward licensure will not be
3 counted anymore to now having to complete the
4 associate license.

5 Ms. Walter stated the Board cannot give a yes or
6 no on a hypothetical application, where someone who
7 has completed their supervised clinical experience
8 with or without the associate license are encourage
9 to apply for a regular license and then the Board
10 will decide on whether the individual qualifies.

11 Ms. Santamaria Garcia commented that starting
12 September 2024, if someone has not applied for their
13 associate license or their license, the hours they
14 completed before would not count moving forward.

15 Ms. Walter was not aware of that being written
16 anywhere.

17 Ms. Santamaria Garcia referred to the prior Board
18 meeting, where decisions were made concerning her
19 LMFT and LPC applications. She reported receiving
20 the Final Adjudication and Order on the LMFT
21 application but requested paperwork regarding the
22 translators or Board witness transcript of her
23 hearing several times from Board Counsel but has not
24 received an answer.

25 Ms. Walter informed Ms. Santamaria Garcia that

1 copies of the transcript of the hearing or the
2 deposition of the translator could be obtained by
3 contacting the Department of State Prothonotary's
4 Office. She believed there would be a fee for those
5 items to be reproduced.

6 Ms. Santamaria Garcia stated she needed to submit
7 her appeal soon and requested contact information for
8 the Prothonotary's Office.

9 Ms. Walter offered to put the email address of
10 the Prothonotary's Office in chat.

11 Ms. Santamaria Garcia also mentioned that the
12 Board decided to provisionally deny one of her
13 applications at the last meeting but has not sent the
14 provisional denial letter. She noted that it was not
15 clear why she was receiving a provisional denial and
16 requested information to be able to move forward
17 since the Board would not be meeting again until
18 September.

19 Ms. Walter explained that she communicates with
20 Mr. Barrett regularly concerning matters of the Board
21 and would check with him on this matter but cannot
22 give any information until Mr. Barrett returns this
23 week. She told Ms. Santamaria Garcia that Mr. Barret
24 will not be able to answer any inquires concerning
25 the provisional denial if she would decide to send

1 him an email.]

2 ***

3 Adjournment

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 Could I have a motion to adjourn the
6 meeting, please?

7 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 Second?

11 DR. BEHUN:

12 Second.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 We are adjourned. I will see everybody
15 at our next meeting.

16 ***

17 [There being no further business, the State Board of
18 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
19 Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at
20 12:26 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.

Emily Cowfer

Emily Cowfer,
Minute Clerk
Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

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

July 16, 2024

	TIME	AGENDA
1		
2		
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4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10	9:00	Executive Session
11	11:00	Return to Open Session
12		
13	11:00	Official Call to Order
14		
15	11:00	Roll Call of Board Members
16		
17	11:01	Introduction of Attendees
18		
19	11:03	Approval of Minutes
20		
21	11:03	Report of Prosecutorial Division
22		
23	11:10	Report of Board Counsel
24		
25	11:11	Review of Applications
26		
27	11:19	Miscellaneous
28		
29	11:21	New Business
30		
31	11:22	Regulatory Report
32		
33	12:14	Report of Board Chair
34		
35	12:16	Report of Acting Commissioner
36		
37	12:17	Report of Board Administrator
38		
39	12:18	Public Comment
40		
41	12:26	Adjournment
42		
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