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BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

Public Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2024

Board Members Present:	Robert Carey, Jr., Ph.D., Chair Vicky Anderson, Psy.D., Vice Chair Jeffrey Brown, Psy.D. Jessica Edwards George, Ph.D. (arrived at 9:06 a.m.) Antonia Seligowski, Ph.D. Michael O'Halloran
Staff Present:	Brian Bialas, Executive Director Judith Bromley, Board Counsel Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor

All Board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

At 9:04 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Dr. Carey.

Board Business

- **Roll Call for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of Board members. Robert Carey, Vicky Anderson, Jeffrey Brown, Antonia Seligowski, and Michael O'Halloran were in attendance.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Brown, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Dr. Edwards George arrived at 9:06 a.m.

• **Executive Session Minutes of November 8, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Anderson, seconded by Dr. Seligowski, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review Interviews – Practice in Accordance with Accepted Standards

• Sherri McKittrick

• **Interview of Former Supervisors Jeff Brand and Elena Balzac:** Dr. Brand and Dr. Balzac appeared to discuss their supervision of Dr. McKittrick. Dr. Brand explained that Dr. McKittrick had a willingness to learn but had trouble with organization, case conceptualization, and boundaries. Issues that were reported to him secondhand included hugging a member of a group and awkward interactions with the co-leader of a child group that Dr. McKittrick eventually was forced to leave.

Dr. Balzac supervised and observed Dr. McKittrick's testing and reports. She agreed with Dr. Brand that Dr. McKittrick was eager to learn. But Dr. Balzac noted that Dr. McKittrick struggled with her diagnoses and did not include all relevant background information in her reports. Dr. McKittrick only sometimes improved after they discussed issues in supervision.

 Interview of Julia Blencowe: Ms. Blencowe appeared to discuss Dr. McKittrick's performance during her post-doctoral fellowship at the Brookline Center. Ms. Blencowe was Dr. McKittrick's administrative manager. She noted complaints that Dr. McKittrick discussed divorce with a client, discussed boyfriends with teenaged girls in a group, and swore at a client. She also received reports from Dr. Balzac that Dr. McKittrick had difficulty making proper diagnoses, and a report about tension between Dr. McKittrick and the co-leader of a group of children. Dr. McKittrick tried to improve but eventually left her postdoctoral fellowship three months early.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Dr. McKittrick to a meeting for an interview.

Application Reviews – Education and Experience

• Martine Aniel Pastor: The Board reviewed Dr. Pastor's application, including documentation of her education and experience. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Dr. Pastor (1) to provide her resume; (2) to provide a chart of her coursework matched with the requirements of the regulations; (3) to obtain her original license application to another state or other documentation of her experience for the Board's review, and (4) to complete the Board's experience forms herself based on the documentation of her experience that she obtains.

Application Reviews – Experience

- John Salvatore Cacciola: The Board reviewed Dr. Cacciola's application, including documentation of his experience. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Dr. Cacciola (1) to obtain his original license application to another state or other documentation of his experience for the Board's review, and (2) to complete the Board's experience forms himself based on the documentation of his experience that he obtains.
- **Meredith Carleton:** The Board reviewed Dr. Carleton's application, including documentation of her experience. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Dr. Carleton to complete the Board's experience forms herself based on documentation of her experience.

Application Review – Education and Experience (Non-Health Service Provider)

• **Amy Parousis:** The Board reviewed Dr. Parousis's application, including documentation of her education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Dr. Parousis that, for the reasons stated in the Academic Program Director Form she submitted, her doctoral program is inadequate for licensure, and she may withdraw her application if she does not want the Board to deny it.

Correspondence

• **11.5.24 Letter from Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB) re: Examination for Professional Practice in Psychology (EPPP) Part 2:** The Board reviewed a letter from ASPPB regarding its plans for redesigning the EPPP.

Application Review – Education and Experience

• **Zlatina Kostova:** The Board will review the application next month after Ms. Bromley analyzes potential conflict issues raised by Dr. Carey and Dr. Edwards George.

Executive Session (closed under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B – adhering to the public records law and to preserve the confidentiality of medical record information)

At 10:24 a.m., a motion was made by Dr. Anderson, seconded by Dr. Brown, to (1) exit the public meeting; (2) enter into executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B – adhering to the public records law and to preserve the confidentiality of medical record information, to discuss and evaluate monitoring reports and examination accommodation requests involving the review of medical records and information of patients; then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, discuss a continuing education audit, and review new cases; and (4) at the conclusion of the investigative conference, not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:24 a.m.

See separate executive session minutes.

Investigative Conference (closed session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:17 a.m.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Settlement

2022-000696-IT-ENF and 2022-001023-IT-ENF (EN):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Continuing Education Audits

Gave direction to investigator supervisor.

Cases

PSY-2024-0001 (CC):

PSY-2023-0010 and PSY-2024-0009 (GF):

<u>Adjournment</u>

At 12:21 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. O'Halloran, seconded by Dr. Brown, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on January 10, 2025.

Brian P. Biela

Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting

- Agenda of December 13, 2024 Meeting
- Public Meeting Minutes of November 8, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of November 8, 2024
- Documents from Application of Sherri McKittrick

Refer to the Office of Prosecutions Review cases at next meeting

- Documents from Application of Martine Aniel Pastor
- Documents from Application of John Salvatore Cacciola
- Documents from Application of Meredith Carleton
- Documents from Application of Amy Parousis
- 11.5.24 Letter from ASPPB re: EPPP Part 2