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State of Alaska
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
December 17th, 2021

**These are DRAFT minutes prepared by the staff of the
Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing.**

These minutes have not yet been reviewed or approved by the Board.

**By the authority of AS. 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.64, Article 6, a
scheduled board meeting was held via Zoom.**

Friday December 17th, 2021

Agenda Item – Call to Order & Roll Call

Board Chair Alice Baum called the meeting to order at 12:08 PM

Those present constituting a quorum of the board:

Alice Baum, Chair, Professional Counselor

Dorene Hagen, Professional Counselor

Sammie O’Neal, Professional Counselor

Eleanor Vinson, Public Member – *joined at 12:11 PM*

Absent from the board:

Janece Richard, Vice Chair, Professional Counselor – *unexcused absence*

In attendance from the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Division of
Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing were:

Logan Bugayong, Occupational Licensing Examiner

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Sharon Walsh, Deputy Director

In attendance from the public were:

Sara Risi

Paige Begich

Agenda Item – Review and Approve Agenda

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47 The board reviewed the drafted agenda of the meeting. Dorene Hagen requested to amend the agenda
48 to discuss the legislative subcommittee that was discussed at the previous meeting.

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50 **In a motion duly made by Sammie O’Neal and seconded by Dorene Hagen, with unanimous consent, it**
51 **was resolved to approve the agenda as amended.**

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Agenda Item – Discuss SB 21 Draft

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56 The board discussed SB 21 and the steps the Division is taking to address the need for expedited military
57 spouse licensing. Deputy Director Sharon Walsh explained the board’s role in crafting the draft
58 regulations and their need to establish substantial equivalence for license types. The biggest discrepancy
59 across jurisdictions is the number of graduate semester hours required for licensure. This number
60 typically varies between 48 hours and 60 hours. Currently, the Board of Professional Counselors requires
61 all applicants to have 60 graduate semester hours in professional counseling and to have a degree that
62 meets at least eight out of ten of the competencies listed in regulation. The board discussed what would
63 happen if an applicant were to apply with less than 60 graduate semester hours. They discussed various
64 options such as requiring the individual to work under supervision, allowing them to receive a
65 temporary license for 180 days, and supplementing the degree with specific continuing education. The
66 board eventually decided to vote on the draft language as presented and to maintain the precedence
67 that has been set to require 60 graduate semester hours and review temporary military license
68 applications on a case by case basis.

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70 **In a motion duly made by Dorene Hagen and seconded by Sammie O’Neal, with unanimous**
71 **consent, it was resolved to accept the draft language for the Temporary Military License as presented.**

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Agenda Item – Subcommittee Discussions

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76 At the board’s last meeting, they voted to form a subcommittee to prepare for the February meeting
77 and potentially meeting with legislators. Due to the chair’s absence at the previous, it was requested
78 that this topic is discussed while she is present. The board will maintain its subcommittee and will reach
79 out individually to assess which legislators would be optimal to try to schedule meetings with in
80 February. The chair requested another meeting is scheduled before the next quarterly meeting,
81 however, Logan Bugayong pointed out that the board’s current budget would likely not allow for an
82 additional board meeting. The board’s next meeting is in February. At Lacey Derr’s recommendation, the
83 board will try to meet with legislators in the afternoon on the first day of their meeting.

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Agenda Item – Regulations Projects

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88 The board reviewed correspondence from the Division’s regulation specialist on behalf of the
89 Department of Law. The Department of Law had questions regarding specific language and intent of
90 regulations that are currently in the process of being amended. The board clarified that they would like

91 to have a chapter wide definition of “synchronous”, instead of having the term apply to a specific
92 section, 12 AAC 62.310(g). In addition, instead of having “face-to-face” defined as synonymous to
93 synchronous in 12 AAC 62.220(f), the board would like “face-to-face” to be defined as “happening
94 precisely at the same time during which the instructor and attendee are able to communicate in real
95 time.” Finally, the board specified that in their amended draft of 12 AAC 62.220(e), the board does
96 intend to remove prerequisites and prior approval before conducting distance supervision. The board
97 plans to meet with legislators in their upcoming February meeting and will work to address the statutory
98 supervision requirements in this meeting.

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100 **In a motion duly made by Dorene Hagen and seconded by Sammie O’Neal, with unanimous consent, it**
101 **was resolved to adjourn the meeting.**

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103 **Off Record: 1:07 PM**

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Logan Bugayong
Occupational License Examiner

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Alice Baum
Chair

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Date

Date