

**STATE OF ALASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

**January 29 & 30, 2009  
Anchorage, Alaska**

Minutes of Meeting

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 08.95.020, Article 1, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Professional Counselors was held January 29 – 30, 2009, in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Thursday, January 29, 2009**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

**Board Members Present and constituting a quorum of the Board were:**

Shawnie Olson, Chairperson, Licensed Professional Counselor – Homer  
Jennifer Burkholder, Licensed Professional Counselor – Anchorage  
Emily Zimbrich, Licensed Professional Counselor – Haines  
Ray DePalatis, Licensed Professional Counselor – Anchorage  
Lillian Mitchell, Public Member – Anchorage

**Attending at various times from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development,  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing was:**

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner  
Karen Wilke, Paralegal (by telephone)  
Joanna Williamson, Investigator

**Review Agenda**

Added to agenda by Shawnie Olson:

- Under Old Business:
  - B. Distance Counseling
- Under New Business:
  - D. Report of AASCB-Shawnie Olson
  - E. Report of AASCB-Eleanor Vinson (already scheduled under 9A&B)
  - F. Conference Attendance

Added to agenda by Ray DePalatis:

- G. Review Supervisor Criteria
  - What acceptable/what not for CEUs and applications

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Lillian Mitchell, and approved unanimously, it was  
RESOLVED to accept agenda as amended.**

### **Agenda Item 1 – Review Minutes**

The minutes were discussed and Shawnie Olson had small changes for the October 23-24, 2008 minutes.

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Jennifer Burkholder, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to accept the October 23-24, 2008 minutes as amended.**

### **Agenda Item 2 – Paralegal Report**

Paralegal Wilke had sent the Board information regarding required coursework needed for continuing education for case number 3700-08-004.

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Jennifer Burkholder, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to go into executive session regarding the continuing education submitted for case number 3700-08-004.**

Into executive session: 10:15 am

Out of executive session: 10:33 am

Paralegal Karen Wilke addressed the Board via telephone. She gave the paralegal report and presented a Consent Agreement, Decision and Order for case number 3700-08-004.

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Ray DePalatis, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to go into executive session regarding case number 3700-08-004.**

Into executive session: 11:00 am

Out of executive session: 11:15 am

**Upon a motion by Jennifer Burkholder and seconded by Ray DePalatis, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to accept the Consent Agreement, Decision and Order in case number 3700-08-004.**

### **Agenda Item 3 – Regulations**

#### **3 A. Background Checks (update-goes into effect 1/29/09)**

During previous meetings, the Board had discussed regulations regarding background checks and had determined that background checks should be required for new applicants (report of criminal justice information). This has now been signed by the Lt. Governor and will become effective 1/29/09.

### **Agenda Item 4 – Ethics Class**

Assistant Attorney General Judy Bockmon presented a class on ethics to the Board of Professional Counselors.

## **Agenda Item 5 – Statutes**

### **5. A. AS 47.30.705 Emergency Detention for Evaluation**

At a previous meeting, the Board had determined that they wished to have “Licensed Professional Counselor” be added to the list in the first sentence of Sec. 47.30.705. Emergency detention for evaluation. (a)

A letter was sent to the Division with this request, but no response has been received.

### **5. B. Sec 08.29.110**

The recent laws defining “professional counselors” make it more difficult for applicants to get letters of recommendation needed to qualify for licensure. Many of the applicants do not work with more than one licensed professional counselor. The Board had decided that it would like to see “Professional Counselors” removed from 09.29.110 and replace it with the list of qualified mental health professionals who may submit letters of recommendations for applicants.

The Professional Counselor statutes and regulations already has a list of these professionals under Sec. 08.29.210 Supervisor Certification and would like to use the list to change 08.29.110. This list contains the following:

a professional counselor or is a licensed physician, licensed advanced nurse practitioner who is certified to provide psychiatric or mental health services, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marital and family therapist, licensed psychologist, or licensed psychological associate

A letter was submitted to the Division with this information, but no response has been received.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Old Business**

### **7. B. Portability**

Chair Olson discussed portability, which is the ability to take a license from place to place; state to state, and have all the information that will be needed for licensure stored in one place. This is being put forth by AASCB.

### **7. B. Distance Counseling**

This subject was presented by Chair Olson. She would like the Board to adopt rules that give credentialing to distance counselors. She would like to see some kind of standards set, such as adhering to the ACA code of ethics and requiring three CEUs in distance counseling.

This was discussed. Not all members agreed with this concept, as they felt this was already covered under the licensing rules that exist.

There was discussion pertaining to using the state association to help educate the public on distance counseling and also regarding a list of people who have completed special training being put on the website.

This was tabled until next meeting so the licensing examiner could find out if there any standards already in existence in statutes or regulations for creating a certification for the distance counseling or being able to put a list of trained counselors on the website.

**Agenda Item 8 – Application Review**

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Jennifer Burkholder, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to approve the following applications:**

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR BY EXAMINATION**

Mcclain-Owens, Ebony  
McMorrow, Samantha  
Watkins, Adrienne

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR BY CREDENTIALS**

Cody, Cecilie  
Fleming, Vivian  
Schwager, Herbert

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR APPROVED SUPERVISORS**

Bennett, Darci  
Kunert, Holly  
Ruder, Judith  
Schoder-Enri, William

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

**ATTACHMENT & BONDING ASSOCIATES**

Attachment Disorders 201 & 202 15.0 hours

**ATTACHMENT & BONDING ASSOCIATES**

Attachment Disorders – Complex Trauma in Early Childhood 15.0 hours

**BEYOND BORDERS**

HELPING Those Who Experience Depression & Anxiety 11.5 hours

**BEYOND BORDERS**

Helping Those Who Experience Grief & Loss 11.0 hours

**KETCHIKAN INDIAN COMMUNITY TRIBAL HEALTH CLINIC**

Training on Evidence-Based Outpatient Model 14.0 hours

**MEDS-PDN**

Legal Issues in Behavioral Health in Alaska 6.0 hours

**APPROVED PENDING**

Kunert, Holly – Professional Counselor by Credential  
Hobbs, Robin – Professional Counselor Supervisor

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Jennifer Burkholder, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to adjourn until Friday, January 30, 2009 at 9:00 am.**

**Adjourned at 4:45 p. m.**

**Friday, January 30, 2009**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members Present and constituting a quorum of the Board were:

Shawnie Olson, Chairperson, Licensed Professional Counselor – Homer  
Jennifer Burkholder, Licensed Professional Counselor – Anchorage  
Emily Zimbrich, Licensed Professional Counselor – Haines  
Ray DePalatis, Licensed Professional Counselor – Anchorage  
Lillian Mitchell, Public Member – Anchorage

Attending at various times from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development, Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing was:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner  
JoAnna Williamson, Investigator

**Agenda Item 9 – New Business**

9. A. (FYI) C-Din-database for sanctioned licenses

Licensing Examiner Vinson discussed this database, Counseling Disciplinary Information Network (C-DIN). It is a database, as yet not created, for sanctioned licenses that will be able to be accessed by AASCB member boards. It was an “FYI” for the Board so they would know that it was being discussed nationwide. It will be administered by the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB).

It is a resource for regulatory boards investigating the professional backgrounds and current licensure status of licensed professional counselors who are applying for licensure in their states.

9. B. (FYI) current issues on the national level

Licensing Examiner Vinson reported to the Board regarding current issues that were presented by the American Counseling Association at the AASCB yearly meeting. These included helping veterans; licensure portability (presented Board Chair); Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs’ 2009 standard revision; and the future of counseling (called 20/20).

9. C. American Mental Health Counselors Association

There was discussion regarding whether the American mental Health Counselors’ Association (AMHCA) would be more effective/informative for board member attendance than the NCE. Previously, the Board had chosen Emily Zimbrich to attend the NCE conference, but that will be changed to AMHCA.

9. D. AASCB Report – Eleanor Vinson  
(see 9.A & B)

9. E. AASCB Report – Chair Olson  
(see 7A and B)

The Chair asked members to list anything that they would like to know about other states that the American Counseling Association could send out on their listserv.

9. F. Conference Attendance

The Board discussed proper protocol for conference attendance.

9. G. Meeting dates and places

(see 13.C.)

9. H. Supervisor application criteria

The Board discussed what would be acceptable on applications, such as how readable the application is. The Board noted that the application may be downloaded, but not filled out on the computer at this website. The Board does return applications that cannot be read.

There was also discussion regarding what CEUs are accepted for the supervision applications. It was noted that we are providing a minimum standard.

**Agenda Item 10 – Investigator’s Report**

Investigator JoAnna Williamson addressed the Board regarding current investigations she is working on and the status of three cases still being handled by another Investigator.

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Lillian Mitchell, and approved unanimously, it was RESOLVED to go into executive session regarding an on-going investigation**

Into Executive Session: 10:07 a.m.

Out of Executive Session: 10:12 a.m.

**Agenda Item 12 – Correspondence**

Samantha Schock had written and enquired if she could take the national Clinical Mental Health Counselor Exam (NCMHCE) in place of the NCE (National Counseling Exam). The Board will accept it but has been notified by NBCC (National Board for Certified Counselors) that Alaska does not contract to allow this exam to be taken for this state.

**Agenda Item 13. Board Business**

12. A. Task List:

12. B. Sign Wall Certificates

Wall certificates were signed.

12. C. Future Meetings

All meetings will begin at 10:00 am on the first day and at 9:00 am on the second day.

The Board discussed up-coming meeting. They had previously set the following dates:

May 7-8, 2009 – Juneau  
October 1-2, 2009 – Fairbanks

**Upon a motion by Emily Zimbrich and seconded by Ray DePalatis, and approved unanimously, it was RESOLVED to have the May meeting in Anchorage**

After discussion, a new motion was brought forth.

**Upon a motion by Ray DePalatis and seconded by Lillian Mitchell, and approved unanimously, it was RESOLVED to change the meeting locations to Fairbanks in May and Anchorage in October**

The dates/locations of up-coming meetings:

May 7-8, 2009 -- Fairbanks

October 1-2, 2009 -- Anchorage

#### 12. D. Sign Meeting Minutes

Minutes from previous meeting were signed.

#### 12. E. Travel Authorizations

Travel authorizations were signed by Board members and paperwork turned in.

#### 12. F. Ethics reports

No ethics reports this meeting

#### 12. G. Conferences/training

Upcoming conferences/training are as follows:

American Counseling Association – March – Ray DePalatis and Jennifer Burkholder

AMHCA – July – Emily Zimbrich

NBCC/NCE – September – Shawnie Olson  
(this conference cancelled as of 2/6/09)

CLEAR Conference – September 10-12– Ray DePalatis and Lillian Mitchell and Eleanor Vinson

**Upon a motion by Jennifer Burkholder and seconded by Emily Zimbrich, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to adjourn.**

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am**

Board of Professional Counselors  
January 29-30, 2009 Meeting

Respectfully Submitted:

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Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved:

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Tashawna Olson, Chair  
Board of Professional Counselors

Date: \_\_\_\_\_