| 1        | State of Alaska  |
|----------|--|
| 2        | Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development   |
| 3        | Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  |
| 4        | A1 1 D 1 CD C ' 1 C 1  |
| 5        | Alaska Board of Professional Counselors  |
| 6        | September 19-20, 2019 Meeting Minutes  |
| 7        |  |
| 8        | The staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing   |
| 9        | prepared these draft minutes. They have not been reviewed or approved by the   |
| 10       | Board.   |
| 11       |  |
| 12       | By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS   |
| 13       | 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Professional Counselors  |
| 14       | was held at 550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1560 in Anchorage, Alaska, on September  |
| 15       | 19-20, 2019.   |
| 16       |  |
| 17       | Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call Time: 9:18 a.m.  |
| 18       |  |
| 19       | The <b>September 19, 2019</b> meeting day was called to order by Chair, Debra Hamilton at 9:23                         |
| 20       | a.m.   |
| 21       |  |
| 22       | Board members present, constituting a quorum:  |
| 23       |  |
| 24       | Debra Hamilton, Licensed Professional Counselor – <i>Chair</i>   |
| 25       | Steven Kyle Cardwell, Licensed Professional Counselors – <i>Vice Chair</i> Alice Baum, Licensed Professional Counselor |
| 26<br>27 | Janece Richard, Licensed Professional Counselor (only for Day 1)   |
| 28       | Eleanor Vinson, Public Member  |
| 29       | Eleanor vinson, rubile Member  |
| 30       | Division staff present:  |
| 31       | ==:  |
| 32       | Andy Khmelev, Occupational Licensing Examiner  |
| 33       | Billy Homestead, Investigator  |
| 34       | Greg Francois, Chief Investigator  |
| 35       | Jun Maiquis, Regulations Specialist  |
| 36       | Susan Pollard, Attorney VI from Department of Law  |
| 37       |  |
| 38       | Board members absent:  |
| 39       |  |
| 40       | Janece Richard, Licensed Professional Counselor (Excused) – Only absent on Day 2                                       |
| 41       |  |
| 42       |  |
| 43       |  |

### 

## Agenda Item 2 Review/Approve Agenda

On a motion duly made by Janece Richard, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to approve the agenda for the September 19-20, 2019 meeting as amended with the addition of "application readiness" added to new business.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

## Agenda Item 3 Ethics Report

The board then moved on to addressing ethics, however, there were no ethics disclosures to report.

# Agenda Item 4 Review & Approve Minutes (May 2019)

On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell, seconded by Janece Richard, and approved unanimously, it was

# RESOLVED to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2019 meeting/videoconference.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

## Agenda Item 5 Public Comment

The public comment was on the agenda starting at 9:15 am. The meeting started at 9:18 am, and was live with the zoom line open with no calls in. Chair Hamilton then stated that they will keep the line open for public comment until 9:45 am. Board member Kyle Cardwell expressed concern that an associate of his wished to call in for public comment at the last meeting, however was unable to do so due to the line not allowing a connection. Kyle then stepped out of the room and called the zoom line in order to test it to make sure that it works, and upon testing it was determined that the line is open and working. There were no calls for public comment.

### Agenda Item 6 Correspondence

The correspondence that was received was from Rachel McCrickard who is the CEO of Motivo, and she has a system for secure live video to do distance supervision. She asked to be added to the agenda in order for the board to discuss distance supervision. She stated in her email that 45 states are allowing clinical supervision through secure video. The board looked at the email and discussed what Miss McCrickard is offering, and determined that the email was mostly a sales pitch. The board also agreed that in order to change the supervision policies, there would have to be a regulation change. There already is a regulation for distance supervision per 12 AAC 62.220 (e), and there is a form for it available as well.

Off the record for break at 9:47 a.m. Back on the record at 9:50 a.m.

# Agenda Item 7 <u>Investigative Report</u>

Chief Investigator Greg Francois introduced Investigator Billy Homestead as the new investigator for the PCO program in the interim, as the normal investigator Erika Prieksat is on maternity leave. They then proceeded to discuss the investigative report. The report covers 4/24/19-9/2/2019. The division opened nine matters, and closed thirteen matters. The remaining ten matters are ongoing and are still under active investigation.

On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell and seconded by Eleanor Vinson in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2), the board unanimously moved to enter executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.

Staff members Andy Khmelev, Greg Francois, and Billy Homestead were authorized to remain in the room.

Off the record for executive session at 9:54 a.m.

Back on the record at 11:14 a.m.

On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell, seconded by Janece Richard, and approved via roll call vote, it was

#### RESOLVED to accept the consent agreement of 2019-000187.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton |         |      | X       |        |
| Alice Baum     |         |      | X       |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

# On a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson, seconded by Janece Richard, and approved via roll call, it was

## RESOLVED to adopt the civil fine for 2019-000202.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  |         |      | X       |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

Chair Hamilton then signed both consent agreements on the record.

Off the record at 11:18 a.m. for break

161 Back on the record at 11:37 a.m.

# Agenda Item 8 <u>Division Update – Right Touch Regulation</u>

There was no financial report to give since there has been no new report since the last board meeting.

Due to the absence of Division Director Sara Chambers and Deputy Director Sharon Walsh, the Right Touch Regulation presentation did not happen as intended. The board members instead opted to read the power point slides that were provided in the board book, and the

memorandum written by Director Chambers. The board then discussed their findings from the power point presentation.

# On a motion duly made by Alice Baum, seconded by Eleanor Vinson, and approved unanimously, it was

#### RESOLVED to go into recess for the lunch hour.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

Off the record for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

187 Back on the record at 1:14 p.m.

## Agenda Item 10 Old Business

After a roll call, all members were present with the exception of Janece Richard, who joined two minutes later at 1:16 pm. Jun Maiquis, the CBPL regulations specialist, and Susan Pollard, the Chief Regulations Attorney from the Department of Law joined into the meeting via zoom call. The board wanted to discuss the edits that the Department of Law made to the telehealth regulations 12 AAC 62.400-420, which will need to be readopted.

Board member Kyle Cardwell mainly wanted to know why there were a significant amount of changes, and why were they not put in the first time. Susan Pollard from Dept. of Law explained that in this instance the dept of law is required by law to make sure regulations are legal and abide by the constitution. She explained that when the final review came to her, she wanted to make the full intent of the regulations completely clear, and that way there will be less confusion when these regulations are applied. She also expressed her wish for the board to look at regulation 410 specifically to make sure that the confidentiality regulations were written out clearly and correctly, as she used other boards confidentiality regulations to fully understand how the regulations needed to be written.

Board member Cardwell was still unsure about the confidentiality regulations if HIPAA is placed into the regulations, however if someone is diagnosed with substance abuse, then its 42 CFR regulations for confidentiality, which overrules HIPAA. There are differences between the two, as HIPAA allows you to disclose certain things that 42 CFR does not. Kyle Cardwell suggest maybe adding 42 CFR added as well as HIPAA which is already in the edits. Jun Maiquis cleared that up by indicating that even though 42 CFR isn't in these

regulations, they are federal and would overrule any state regulations as it is. There is no point or purpose of adding them in, as they are in effect regardless.

The board reviewed and considered the Department of Law's edits and recommendations regarding the telehealth regulations.

On a motion duly made by Alice Baum, seconded by Eleanor Vinson, and approved, it was

# RESOLVED to readopt the telehealth regulations distance professional services 12 AAC62.400-420 as amended.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  |         | X    |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The certification order was signed by the Chair.

Motion passes with no further discussion.

The board moved onto reviewing 24 month supervision policy. Board member Eleanor Vinson was concerned that applicants were not sufficiently meeting the 24 month supervision requirement by combining days to make a full month. After a discussion, the board determined that the policy is sufficient the way it is.

The board moved onto reviewing the continued education policy of applications applied by credentials. As of now, per the regulations, credential applications only need 40 hours of CEUs with 3 of them in ethics, and no face to face requirements, whereas the continued education for a renewal, certain CEUs have to be in person or via synchronous real time presentations. The board members were thinking of consolidating the regulations for the licensure renewal and the applications via credentials, thereby making the credential applicants also be required to do a certain amount of CEUs in person. Board member Janece Richard expressed her dissatisfaction with the current continued education requirements for credential applicants, and she wants for them to have the same requirements as renewals.

On a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to change 12 AAC 62.130(5) to read "submit verification of completion of 40 continuing education credits, including three of the continuing education credits in ethics within the previous two years immediately preceding application for licensure by credentials; the continuing education must comply with 12 AAC 62.310(d) and 12 AAC 62.320.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

Motion passes with no further discussion.

Board then moved on to discuss the supervision requirements and supervision philosophy. Board member Kyle Cardwell suggested looking at what other states have in their supervision requirements and maybe go off of that. In order to get a delineated supervision philosophy, maybe change the form or provide them with questions to answer on the form, however this may involve a regulation change. Kyle also suggested maybe contacting a legislator and doing a statute change which would be cheaper and possibly faster.

Due to this being mostly in statute, Debbie Hamilton suggested that her and Janece Richard, as the two board members most concerned with the supervisors, will write up and make a presentation for the next meeting.

Off the record for break at 2:49 p.m. Back on the record at 3:00 p.m.

# Agenda Item 11 Conference Follow Up

Board Chair Debbie Hamilton, and Examiner Andy Khmelev attended the AASCB/NBCC joint summit in Washington DC on August 7-9, 2019. Both then presented their findings from the conference. Examiner Andy Khmelev uploaded all the power point presentations that were at the conference onto an onboard resource folder online, so that the rest of the board members would be able to access it.

Examiner Andy Khmelev, who attended his first conference ever, gave a presentation how on a state and national level there is massive de-regulation happening, and how a lot of states find themselves in a fight to show that they are relevant. Andy also attended a staff training, and was able to even input how best to guide the general public and potential licensees through the "government red tape" and how to make bureaucracy easier to navigate.

Chair Debbie Hamilton commented from one of the presentations of the conference that one way to battle the de-regulation is to get more involved. Contacting lawmakers, legislators and governors and remind them of what the licensing board does, which their primary purpose is to protect the public. One of the reasons some of the libertarian organizations are targeting certain laws or boards is because they don't really know what it is that the licensing board does, and one way to combat is to network, collaborate, and educate them on why the licensing boards need to exist.

Chair Hamilton also led a discussion on how Alaska can make it easier to have access to counseling during a time of crisis or national emergency. Where would people go to seek counseling during a national disaster or crisis, and how well the state is prepared to provide those services should there be a disaster. The board did confirm that there are agencies and organizations that do provide those services, however adding temporary licenses or certain endorsements to licenses for counselors would be too big of a task to take on right now, as it would create a lot more work on top of everything going on already.

The board then discussed which future conferences to attend. The third priority on the annual report was AMHCA, which at this point happened in June, so the board missed it for FY19. Board members asked examiner Andy Khmelev when the 2020 AMHCA conference is, and if it falls under FY2020. If its in June or before, it falls under the current annual report, and if it is in July or after, then the board will need to think ahead for the next annual report. Alice Baum and Janece Richard have been designated to attend the FARB conference in Colorado Springs January 23-26, 2020.

The board then discussed going into recess until the next day, and discussed starting the next day at 10:00am instead of 9:00 am.

On a motion duly made by Janece Richard, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

# RESOLVED to amend the agenda to start at 10:00 am on Friday 9/20/19.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

On a motion duly made by Janece Richard, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

#### RESOLVED to recess until 10:00 am on 9/20/19.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard | X       |      |         |        |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

Off the record until 9/20/19 on 3.57 p.m.

## Agenda Item 13 Roll Call/Call to Order

The **September 20, 2019** meeting day was called to order by Chair, Debra Hamilton at 10:18 a.m.

## Board members present, constituting a quorum:

Debra Hamilton, Licensed Professional Counselor – Chair

Steven Kyle Cardwell, Licensed Professional Counselors – Vice Chair

Alice Baum, Licensed Professional Counselor

367 Eleanor Vinson, Public Member

# Division staff present:

Andy Khmelev, Occupational Licensing Examiner

# Board members absent:

Janece Richard, Licensed Professional Counselor

On a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson, seconded by Kyle Cardwell, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to add agenda item "investigation discussion to understand process".

| 384 |                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| 385 | Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| 386 | Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| 387 | Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| 388 | Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| 389 | Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

# On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell, seconded by Eleanor Vinson, and approved unanimously, it was

# RESOLVED to add agenda item "Discuss the Alaska Counseling Association Update".

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

The motion passed with no further discussion.

Chair Debbie Hamilton requested that the investigation process and Alaska Counseling Association agenda items be added to old business.

Board then agrees to move onto application review, with a return to old business and new business later in the day.

# On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

## RESOLVED to accept the agenda as amended.

| _   |                |         |      |         |        |
|-----|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| 419 |                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
| 420 | Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| 421 | Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| 422 | Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| 423 | Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| 424 | Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

Motion passes with no further discussion.

### Agenda Item 15 Application Review

For applicant with the initials PC, the board instructed Examiner Andy Khmelev to send out a written notice communicating to the applicant that the board reviewed the application, and that her conditional license does not meet or exceed the Alaska state license per 08.29.120 b. and 08.29.110 (6). She would need to prove she is qualified or to withdraw the application by 12/31/19. If the neither action is met by 12/31/19, the license would then be denied.

On a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson and seconded by Kyle Cardwell in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2), the board unanimously moved to enter executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.

Staff member Andy Khmelev was authorized to remain in the room.

- Off the record for executive session at 11:11 a.m.
- Back on the record at 12:15 p.m.

Board member Kyle Cardwell was absent for a few moments while speaking with Investigator Billy Homestead.

On a motion duly made by Alice Baum, seconded by Eleanor Vinson, and approved via roll call vote, it was

# RESOLVED to accept the distance supervision for Katie Kostelyk as requested retroactively.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  |         |      |         | X      |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

Motion passed with no further discussion.

After Kyle Cardwell's return with a discussion with the investigator, Examiner Andy Khmelev will ask his supervisor why the counselor program doesn't do a search of the practitioner databank to ensure that licensees are not in violation when they first apply.

On a motion duly made by Eleanor Vinson, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the application for Kerry Potts with additional letters of recommendation.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

Motion passed with no further discussion.

## Agenda Item 10 Old Business

The board moved onto to discuss the added items to the agenda.

Board member Kyle Cardwell tried to reach out to the counseling association and got no response. It appears that the association is either inactive or defunct. Chair Debbie Hamilton encourages to have professional counselors revive their association, and the board stated on record that they welcome working with them collaboratively.

The board requested Examiner Andy Khmelev to check in with regulations specialist Jun Maiquis to get an updated on the regulation revisions that were submitted back in September 2018.

The board moved onto to discuss the investigations process. Board member Eleanor Vinson wishes to have some progress with the investigative matrix, which had been discussed at prior meetings. Examiner Andy Khmelev will need to reach out to the investigative staff to see if there is a copy of the old matrix for PCO that delineated offences and corresponding monetary sanctions, and gather information from similar boards like CSW and MFT to see if they have matrixes they use and see if we can use them as examples.

The board was wondering if it's possible to have a designated reviewing board member specifically for the purpose of investigations, and that the recommendations by the reviewing board member or members comes before the full board before voting, before the offer is sent to the respondent. At this time, the consent agreements go to the licensee first, then to the board for adoption, and the board is wondering if it's possible to do it the other way around. Having the board vote on it first, and then send it to the licensee. Essentially, this would give the board more of a voice for consent agreements, and give more suggestion. If this isn't a possibility, the board would like an explanation as to why.

#### Agenda Item 14 New Business

The only new business to discuss at this meeting was application readiness, which was added the prior day per a motion. In the prior voting round, two applications went onto onboard in error, and were pulled due to being incomplete. Board member Eleanor Vinson expressed concern that incomplete applications were making onto voting, and was wondering if it was going to be like it was in the past when people were only licensed at meetings every few months compared to now, when they are posted monthly. Examiner Andy Khmelev explained that those applications were indeed posted in error, and both the examiner and the board members agreed that with the new onboard system that is now used monthly by the board members, there is no reason to put them up unless they are fully complete, as they can be reposted the next month.

### Agenda Item 16 <u>Board Admin Business</u>

The board agrees to keep the December 6, 2019 date for a one day video conference via zoom. The board also agreed for a tentative meeting date for March 19-20, 2020, and the board will attempt to put in a travel request for the meeting to be held in person in Anchorage.

Board member Kyle Cardwell announced that he is resigning from the board after this meeting, as he is relocating to Washington state and will no longer be able to serve on the board.

#### Task List:

- Board Chair Debbie Hamilton and Janece Richard will be doing a task force to explore other supervision application requirements.
- Examiner Andy Khmelev will need to communicate with applicant PC about her license not meeting the standards. He will be sending a status letter.
- Examiner Andy Khmelev will check with Regulation Specialist Jun Maiquis on the status of the 2018 regulation changes that were submitted.
- Examiner Andy Khmelev will need to reach out to investigative staff to see if there is a copy of the old matrix for PCO that delineated offences and corresponding monetary sanctions, and gather information from similar boards like CSW and MFT to see if they have matrixes they use and see if we can use them as examples.
- Examiner Andy Khmelev will put on December agenda to nominate and vote for the vice chair.
- Janece Richard and Alice Baum have been asked to attend the FARB training in January 2020 if approved, and the board highly advocates and requests this approval due to the value of networking with other state boards, as well as further training to serve this board.

The board also stated they want clarification and request that in the process of investigation, the board have a reviewing member that makes a recommendation be brought to the board for a vote before it is presented to the respondent, and an explanation as to why if this is not a possibility.

Chair Debbie Hamilton also wanted to put on the record that these in person meetings are highly valued and the members are much more efficient. Board members will continue to advocate that these meetings are better in person. Kyle goes on record as a departing member is that these meetings being less in person makes it less desirable to be on the board. The board members also reiterate that there is funding for this, and its gathered from the constituents and it's not really saving the debt much by not doing it. Debbie Hamilton

On a motion duly made by Kyle Cardwell, seconded by Alice Baum, and approved unanimously, it was

## RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 1:31 p.m. on 9/20/19.

requests that the March meeting be in person in Anchorage.

|                | APPROVE | DENY | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|----------------|---------|------|---------|--------|
| Debra Hamilton | X       |      |         |        |
| Alice Baum     | X       |      |         |        |
| Kyle Cardwell  | X       |      |         |        |
| Eleanor Vinson | X       |      |         |        |
| Janece Richard |         |      |         | X      |

Off the record at 1:31 p.m.

Andy Khmelev, Occupational Licensing Examiner Date

Debra Hamilton, Board of Professional Counselors Chair Date

k