

State of Alaska

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

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

December 17th, 2021

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

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

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

Agenda Item – Discuss SB 21 Draft

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

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

Agenda Item – Subcommittee Discussions

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

Agenda Item – Regulations Projects

The board reviewed correspondence from the Division's regulation specialist on behalf of the Department of Law. The Department of Law had questions regarding specific language and intent of regulations that are currently in the process of being amended. The board clarified that they would like to have a chapter wide definition of "synchronous", instead of having the term apply to a specific section, 12 AAC 62.310(g). In addition, instead of having "face-to-face" defined as synonymous to synchronous in 12 AAC 62.220(f), the board would like "face-to-face" to be defined as "happening precisely at the same time during which the instructor and attendee are able to communicate in real time." Finally, the board specified that in their amended draft of 12 AAC 62.220(e), the board does

intend to remove prerequisites and prior approval before conducting distance supervision. The board plans to meet with legislators in their upcoming February meeting and will work to address the statutory supervision requirements in this meeting.

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

Off Record: 1:07 PM

Date final Minutes Approved by the Board ✓Board Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> OnBoard	February 17, 2022
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