

1 State of Alaska
2 Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
3 Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
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5 Alaska Board of Professional Counselors
6 May 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes
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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.
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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 via videoconference through zoom.
15

16 Agenda Item 1 Call to Order/Roll Call Time: 1:07 pm
17

18 The May 18, 2020 meeting day was called to order by Chair, Debra Hamilton at 1:07 pm.
19

20 Board members present, constituting a quorum:
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22 Debra Hamilton, Licensed Professional Counselor – *Chair*
23 Alice Baum, Licensed Professional Counselor
24 Eleanor Vinson, Public Member
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26 Board members absent:
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28 Laura Patin, Licensed Professional Counselor
29 Janece Richard, Licensed Professional Counselor
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32 Division staff present:
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34 Andy Khmelev, Acting Records and Licensing Supervisor
35 Sher Zinn, Regulations Specialist
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38 Agenda Item 2 Review/Approve Agenda
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40 On a motion duly made by Alice Baum, seconded by Eleanor Vinson, and approved
41 unanimously, it was
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43 **RESOLVED** to approve the agenda for the May 18, 2020 meeting.

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	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Hamilton	x			
Alice Baum	x			
Laura Patin				x
Eleanor Vinson	x			
Janece Richard				x

Motion passed with no further discussion.

Agenda Item 3 Administrative Business

Regulations specialist Sher Zinn presented the changes that were made to the proposed emergency regulations discussed at the prior meeting. One of the holdups is what to call distance services, as different boards call it differently. Distance professional services, distance counseling services, and telehealth have been different terms used.

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

RESOLVED to adopt as drafted emergency regulations to 12 AAC 62.400 with the change of adding the word counseling as discussed to 12 AAC 62.400(h) with the intent of making it a permanent regulation.

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Debra Hamilton	x			
Alice Baum	x			
Laura Patin				x
Eleanor Vinson	x			
Janece Richard				x

Motion passed with no further discussion.

Miss Zinn let the board know that an emergency order will need to be signed in order to justify the emergency regulations. The board will need to provide a justifiable reason for the emergency, which is currently the COVID-19 pandemic, and it will be added to the certification order.

Chair Hamilton listed:

- Impedes access to care during the public health emergency.

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

88
89 **RESOLVED** that the wording on the certification order signed by the board
90 chair include that the restrictive nature of these regulations can negatively
91 impact health of the public by impeding access to professional counseling
92 care during the emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

93

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
94 Debra Hamilton	x			
95 Alice Baum	x			
96 Laura Patin				x
97 Eleanor Vinson	x			
98 Janece Richard				x

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101 Motion passed with no further discussion.

102
103 Miss Zinn will get the certification over to the board chair, which can be signed via
104 docusign. After the explanation of the process, Miss Zinn left the meeting as she received
105 what she needed.

106
107 The board discussed possible meeting dates, and discussed the NBCC/AASCB conference
108 in Denver that has not been cancelled as of the date. The board chair is optimistic that it will
109 still happened, and until notification of cancellation for RLS Andy Khmelev to put in a
110 travel request.

111
112 Board member Eleanor Vinson brought up concern that the regulation 12 AAC 62.400
113 states that the continued education for telehealth specifically states that it must be via
114 NBCC. The issue has been that other organizations, such as the APA has been offering a
115 free continued education course on telehealth. The board discussed the emergency
116 regulation that was passed, and possibly to amend the prior motion to make it more wide
117 open for continued education.

118
119 Miss Zinn re-joined the meeting to assist in the discussion. RLS Andy Khmelev advised to
120 have the regulation read that it will allow NBCC, as well as those listed in 12 AAC
121 62.320(b)(2) which lists all the major continued education organizations. Mr. Khmelev made
122 it known that it would leave the option for continued education very wide open. The agreed
123 that this was the best course of action. NBCC is included in the regulation, so listing NBCC
124 wouldn't even be necessary.

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

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132 **RESOLVED** to amend the emergency regulations previously adopted by
133 adding changes to 12 AAC 6.400(b) as discussed.
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	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
135 Debra Hamilton	x			
136 Alice Baum	x			
137 Laura Patin				x
138 Eleanor Vinson	x			
139 Janece Richard				x

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142 Motion passed with no further discussion.

143
144 Board agreed to set the next meeting tentatively for September 24-25, 2020.

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

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149 **RESOLVED** to adjourn the meeting.
150

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
151 Debra Hamilton	x			
152 Alice Baum	x			
153 Laura Patin				x
154 Eleanor Vinson	x			
155 Janece Richard				x

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158 Motion passed with no further discussion.

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160 *Off the record at 2:51 pm.*

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164 _____
165 Andy Khmelev, Acting Records and Licensing Supervisor Date

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Debra Hamilton, Board of Professional Counselors Chair Date