

**State of Alaska**

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

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>, 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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

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50 **Agenda Item – Discuss SB 21 Draft**

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

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

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70 **Agenda Item – Subcommittee Discussions**

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

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82 **Agenda Item – Regulations Projects**

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

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

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

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99 **Off Record: 1:07 PM**

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