

State of Alaska
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
Minutes of the Meeting February 22, 2024

By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Professional Counselors originated virtually via Zoom.

The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:01 am

Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum

Dorene Hagen, Board Chair, Licensed Professional Counselor
Sammie O'Neal, Licensed Professional Counselor
Rachel Buddin-Young, Licensed Professional Counselor

Board Members Absent

None

Staff Members Present

Renee Carabajal, Program Coordinator II
Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator I
Alyssa Castles, Occupational License Examiner

Members of the Public Present

Rebecca Mohlman
Carolyn Heyman

Agenda Item – Review/Approve Agenda

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O'Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve the February 22, 2024, agenda as presented.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

Agenda Item – Ethics Disclosures

All members said they had no potential ethics conflicts to disclose.

Agenda Item – Division Update

Melissa Dumas presented the FY24 second quarter financial report. Melissa and the board discussed expenditures, deficit and potential legislative changes that would move investigative costs away from board expenditures. Board plans to conduct fee analysis next year before renewal.

Agenda Item – Investigations

a. Investigative Report

Jasmin Bautista presented the investigative report covering November 29, 2023 through February 21, 2024. This report included 8 open cases and 3 closed cases, with hopes to close additional cases after presenting cases from 2020-2021 to the board today.

b. Consent Agreements

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to move to executive session to review consent agreements.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Off record 9:38am

On record 10:31am

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Dorene Hagen with unanimous consent, it was resolved to accept the consent agreement for Case 2023-001113. Board member Sammie O’Neil was excused from voting on this matter.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal			X	

In a motion duly made by Sammie O’Neal, seconded by Dorene Hagen with unanimous consent, it was resolved to accept the consent agreement for Case 2023-000802. Board member Rachel Buddin-Young was excused from voting on this matter.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young			X	
Sammie O’Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to accept the consent agreement for Case 2021-000665 and 2021-000674. Board member Dorene Hagen was excused from voting on this matter.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair			X	
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to accept the consent agreement for Case 2020-000542 and 2020-000589. Board member Dorene Hagen was excused from voting on this matter.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair			X	
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to modify the agenda and begin agenda item: Conference Report.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Agenda Item – CRBS Conference Report Out

Dorene Hagen and Rachel Buddin-Young presented information gleaned from the Counseling Regulatory Board Summit, specifically regarding AI, supervision requirements, CE Broker, and jurisprudence exams. Renee addressed the barriers to CE Brokers in Alaska. The board also discussed the barriers to a PCO license compact, including the requirement to override Alaska State law.

Board discussed progress of legislation regarding PCO associates license.

Agenda Item – Public Comment

No Public Members in attendance.

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to modify the agenda and begin agenda item: Old Business.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Agenda Item – Old Business

Professional Fitness Questions for Supervisor Applications: Division would require regulation change to implement new fitness question being requested by the board. Board discussed potential regulation changes regarding supervisors.

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to amend 12 AAC 100 to include part (c) an applicant will not qualify for an approved counselor supervisor certification under this section if the applicant has been disciplined by any State board for any violations of the Professional Counselor Practice Act or unethical conduct within 3 years immediately preceding the date of the application or if they are currently charged or under investigation for any violation of the AMHC Code of Ethics by any State board.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Jeanne presented information to the board regarding existing PCO statutes that may prohibit the implement of a jurisprudence exam. Board requested advice from the department of law regarding what steps are necessary to implement a jurisprudence exam.

Board discussed continuing education load upon application by credentials, not present for application by examination.

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to amend 12 AAC 62.130. License by Credentials to repeal section 5: continuing education.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Off record 11:57am

On record 1:02pm

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved that proposed amendments to 12 AAC 62.130. License by Credentials be sent out for public comment without additional board review if no significant changes are made by the regulations specialist or the department of law.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Agenda Item -- Right Touch Regulation Refresher

Sara Chambers presented a theoretical framework for decision-making in regard to board crafted law, revision, and judgment. Sara will make the presentation and worksheet accessible to the board for future reference. Sara offered to facilitate this process at the board’s request. Board discussed utilizing this framework to review all statutes and regulations, section by section, over future meetings.

Agenda Item – Old Business

Sammie revisited the request for FAQs being posted to the website. Board reviewed FAQs and requested they be posted to the website.

Supervisor Regulations

Board discussed supervisor regulation that will be implemented as soon as new legislation passes into law. Renee added that the board will likely need a special meeting to approve regulation for public comment. Board reviewed existing regulation regarding supervision, continuing education, and renewal of licenses.

Off record 2:42pm

On record 2:48pm

Agenda Item – New Business

a. Correspondence

a. Counseling Compact

The board is not currently pursuing the counseling compact.

b. Dual Degree Question

Coursework must meet or exceed requirements outlined in PCO statutes and regulations.

c. Petition for Somatic Experience Practitioner

The board recommends that all LPCs practice within their scope of training.

d. Supervisor Liability

Board approved supervisors are liable for complaints against their board approved supervisee's license.

b. Tabled Applications

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O'Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to move to executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c) Alaska Constitutional Right of Privacy provision for the purpose of discussing table applications with board staff Jeanne, Renee, and Alyssa.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

Off record 1:00pm

On record 3:39pm

In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal, seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve license number 1887772.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal, seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve license number 214512.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal, seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve license number 218306.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

In a motion duly made by Sammie O'Neal, seconded by Rachel Buddin-Young with unanimous consent, it was resolved to approve license number PCOP83.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O'Neal	X			

c. Criminal Conviction Discussion

Board discussed applicant criminal history assessment, limitation, and judgments. Board plans to discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Board plans to discuss supervision regulations at the next meeting, utilizing the Right Touch Regulation worksheet.

Next meeting scheduled for May 20th, 2024.

In a motion duly made by Rachel Buddin-Young, seconded by Sammie O’Neal with unanimous consent, it was resolved to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 pm.

Board Member	Approve	Deny	Recuse	Absent
Dorene Hagen, Chair	X			
Rachel Buddin-Young	X			
Sammie O’Neal	X			

Date final minutes approved by the board: <input type="checkbox"/> Board Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onboard	April 4th, 2024
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