

MEETING MINUTES
TENNESSEE BOARD OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS

DATE: January 15, 2021
TIME: 9:00A.M.
LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Iris Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

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Ella Britt, LADAC, Chair
Dr. Jane Abraham, LADAC, NCAC II, Secretary
Major McNeil, Citizen Member
David Brown, LADAC
Dr. Mark Loftis, LADAC

STAFF

PRESENT:

LaTonya Shelton, ASA3
Carolina Tippens, Deputy General Counsel
George Darden, HRB Director
Grant Mullins, Office of General Counsel

WebEx Event: Due to COVID-19 gathering restrictions, please join us in our virtual meeting which is open to the public.

Ms. LaTonya Shelton asked staff to introduce themselves: Latonya Shelton, ASA3, Caroline Tippens, Assistant General Counsel. Ms. LaTonya Shelton reviewed the required formalities with Board members that were in attendance for the electronic meeting. Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated this is a meeting of the Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors. Because this Board was unable to convene a physical quorum to consider these matters considering the COVID-19 pandemic. All votes must be done by roll call. Ms. LaTonya Shelton, ASA3 called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. LaTonya Shelton, called the roll to ensure there was a quorum and to ensure all board members were connected and able to hear each other. It was determined that it was a quorum.

Members were advised to identify themselves before they spoke. The teleconference was then turned over to Ms. Ella Britt, Chair of the Board.

Introduction

Mr. George Darden the new Health Related Boards Director introduced himself to the Board giving them a little background of his work history and he also gave his contact information just in case anyone needed assistance.

Mr. Grant Mullins introduced himself to the Board and he also stated that he used to work in the Office of General Counsel once before and he has returned to the Office of General Counsel.

Minutes

Dr. Jane Abraham made the motion to table the October 9, 2020 meeting minutes and November 20, 2020 emergency meeting minutes until the next scheduled Board meeting. Mr. David Brown seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Office of General Counsel (OGC)

Litigation

There are no cases currently pertaining to licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselors in the Office of General Counsel.

Rules:

Public Chapter 131 (2019), the "Kenneth and Madge Tullis, MD, Suicide Prevention Training Act," requires the Board to promulgate rules regarding suicide prevention training. Public Chapter 131 requires that beginning on January 1, 2020, all licensed LADACs must take at least one approved course from the Department of Mental Health on suicide prevention every four (4) years. The Board approved the changes required by Public Chapter 131 at its April 5, 2019 meeting. A Notice of Rulemaking has been filed and a rulemaking hearing was conducted before the Board on today, January 17, 2020. These rules were approved by Joint Government Operations in December 2020.

The combined pending rules which are in internal review with language showing the deletion of behavioral health from the rules, along with the adoption of the IC&RC credential via reciprocity, which were approved by the Board on October 18, 2019. These rules are currently in internal review.

Telehealth:

Governor Lee's Executive Order #63 did extend authority for A&D counselors through February 27, 2021 (provision 38.2). As such, telemedicine is covered by EO #73 : <https://publications.tnsosfiles.com/pub/execorders/exec-orders-lee73.df>

Office of Investigations

Ms. Leonard stated her office had a total of complaints five (5) newly opened; five (5) closed and currently eight (8) open. Ms. Leonard informed the Board that she is not currently monitoring any practitioners.

Administrative Report

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated there are 476 licensees; one (1) level one application; four (4) level two applications; three (3) reinstatement applications, and two (2) reciprocity application.

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated ten (10) licenses have been issued; two (2) retired; nine (9) expired; fifty-one (51) renewals and, zero (0) denials. Ms. LaTonya Shelton informed the Board there were seventeen rewed through revenue and thirty-four (34) online renewals.

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated the next meeting is April 2, 2021.

Ratify newly licensed/reinstated applications

Dr. Jane Abraham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Major McNeil, to approve the following newly licensed applicants. The motion carried.

Level 1

Juliane Nicole Boyd
Rachel S. Hill
Michelle Johnson

Level 2

Britney Baker
Melanie Lynn Hayden
Brian Lee Hervert
Amanda Louise Lynch
Zachary Charles Talbott

Upgrades

Robbie Broughton
Mark Holladay

Voluntarily Retired

John W. Fite
Kay Haskell

Reinstatement

Kathryn Benson Lv.2
Myron Edwards
Laura Ann Howard

Continuing Education Program

Mandy Colburn's eight domain training: Ms. Colburn is an approved NAADAC provider. This training will educate people working toward licensure with a working knowledge of the eight domains. All trainings will be in person on the third (3rd) Saturday of the month starting February

20, 2021. One of the eight domains will be taught every month starting February 20, 2021 through September 18, 2021. All trainings will total ten (10) hours except for Ethics will total six (6) hours. The training classes will be facilitated using the NAADAC training manual. They will include power point presentations, discussions, teach backs, role plays and evaluations. Mr. Major McNeil made the motion to approve Many Colburn's eight domain training courses. Mr. Mark Loftis seconded the motion. Dr. Jane Abraham recused herself because her and Ms. Colburn are friends. The motion carried.

Legislation

Ms. Caroline Tippens informed the board that at this time there is no liaison for Mr. Patrick Powell and that legislation just started this pass Monday. Several bills are in process of being reviewed but nothing at this time that will affect this Board but if anything, that may pertain to this Board Ms. Tippens will create a bill analysis and if the board members have any concerns or anything that will affect this Board they will be informed. At some point there may be a piece of legislation that will affecting a variety of Health Related Boards regarding Telemedicine.

Public Comments

Dottie Greene, associate professor at Eastern Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. They have developed an addiction counseling program. As I am sure you are aware, TN's overdose rate is higher than the national average, and NE TN has been hit exceptionally hard by the addiction epidemic. Ms. Greene would like to speak with the Board about communication with the Board/administrative office. Ms. Caroline Tippens offered to facilitate with emailed correspondence with Ms. Greene and the administrative office to ensure a timely response. Ms. Caroline Tippens stated that once correspondence has been sent to the Board that need to be addressed to/by the Board, it will be placed on the public notice and agenda.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m. The next meeting is April 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at 665 Mainstream, Ground Floor, Nashville, Tennessee

These minutes were ratified at the March 19, 2021 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Board meeting.