

MEETING MINUTES
TENNESSEE BOARD OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE COUNSELORS

DATE: March 19, 2021
TIME: 9:00 A.M.
LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Iris Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

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

STAFF

PRESENT: LaTonya Shelton, ASA3
Kyontze Hughes-Toombs, Deputy General Counsel
George Darden, HRB Director

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, Kynotze Hughes-Toombs, 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 9:12 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 is was a quorum.

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

Minutes

Mr. David Brown made the motion to approve the October 9, 2020 meeting minutes and November 20, 2020 emergency meeting minutes and January 15, 2021 meeting minutes with the correction of Ms. Ella Britt name. Mr. Major McNeil 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:

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 #77 (paragraph 38.2) did extend authority for A&D counselors to continue to practice telemedicine through April 28, 2021 (provision 38.2). [exec-orders-lee77.pdf \(tnsosfiles.com\)](#)

Office of Investigations

Ms. Leonard stated her office had a total of complaints two (2) newly opened and currently ten (10) open. Ms. Leonard informed the Board that she is not currently monitoring any practitioners.

Financial Report

Mr. Matthew McSpadden the new fiscal manager reviewed the Financial Report stating for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 projected revenue and expenditures. The Board projected incurred total direct expenditures of \$61,094.06 and allocated expenditures of \$16,949.00 for total expenditures of \$78,043.06 through ending fiscal year 2021.

The projected financial report indicated through fiscal ending year 2021 the Board Fee Revenue totaled \$95, 104.60, current year net \$17, 61.54 with a cumulative carryover of \$149, 727.24.

Administrative Report

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated there are 477 licensees; one (1) level one application; eight (8) level two applications; one (1) reinstatement applications.

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated ten (10) licenses have been issued; one (1) retired; eight (8) expired; two (2) qualified clinical supervisors; thirty-three (33) renewals and, zero (0) denials. Ms. LaTonya Shelton informed the Board there were eight (8) renewed through revenue and twenty-three (23) online renewals.

Ms. LaTonya Shelton stated the next meeting is July 16, 2021.

Ratify newly licensed/reinstated applications

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

Level 1

Heidi Rose Martell
Flora Gail Polly

Level 2

Janice J. Church
Rachel Mary Loveday
Jeffrey Mixon Lowe
Tayler Sierra Matthews
Daniel Hiram Pagan
Kristin Trudeau

Upgrades

Cole Szabo

Voluntarily Retired

Kay Haskell

Reinstatement

William Copeland

Public Comments

Dottie Greene, associate professor at Eastern Tennessee State University in Johnson City, TN. First, I would like to express my appreciation for the TN Board of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors' willingness to hear my concerns regarding the barriers to LADAC licensure in NE Tennessee. Dr. Mike Timo (an addictionologist in NE TN) and myself would like to request a meeting with you and Ms. Shelton and other board members you deem relevant to the conversation. 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. The intersection with the pandemic has seen increases of up to 41% in ODs per a JAMA report released last week. We desperately need qualified addiction counselors in our region. We would like to have a conversation about how we work together to reduce the barriers to licensure to build our addiction counseling workforce. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects the need for addiction

specialist in behavioral health to increase through 2029 by 25%. This is much higher than average. Here are just a few items we would like to discuss.

1. Improve communication with the board
2. NE TN's dearth of LADACs and the lack of QCS's to supervise the LADAC process
3. Expedite licensure process from the time the application is submitted to ratification.
4. Potential revisions of administrative rules and/or statutes
 1. Re: allowing addictionologist to qualify as QCS'
 2. Revise 5-year post LADAC II requirement for QCS status to 2-years post-LADAC II (this is more in-line with many other boards)
 3. Make more explicit, and revise, eligibility and processes for master's level behavioral health students and practitioners who have addiction specialty certificates (similar to other NC and other states) requirements.
 4. Update the board's language to reflect current trends in the use of non-stigmatizing language (e.g., substance use disorder vs. substance abuse)

Dr. Michael Tino, FASAM, DABAM of Doctors Assisted Wellness and Recovery, LLC also shared the same thoughts and concerns as Ms. Dottie Greene.

After the Board held a lengthy discussion with both Ms. Dottie Greene and Dr. Michael Tino. Mrs. Ella Britt requested that Ms. Greene write a detailed letter on her discussion and resubmit all detailed information to the board.

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next meeting is July 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at 665 Mainstream, Ground Floor, Nashville, Tennessee

These minutes were ratified at the July 16, 2021 Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor Board meeting.