



NCASPPB

North Carolina Addictions Specialist
Professional Practice Board

Meeting Minutes

12:00pm, January 24, 2020

Sheraton Imperial Hotel, Durham, NC

Board Members Present: Laura Veach, Mark Crabtree, Johnny Bass, David Turpin, Lea Tackett, Angie Banther, Sylvia Parsons, Starleen Scott Robbins, Geri Miller, Mike McGuire, Danny Graves, Cheryl Gentile, Lynn Jones, Elizabeth Ramos, Dennis Hagarty, Stephanie Robinson, Kate Gomes, and Al Mooney.

Board Members Absent: Flay Lee, John Sanders, Brenda Smith Williams, Carol Hoffman, Richard Hicks

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Katie Gilmore, Marcie Murfin, Nelson Harris, Randolph Cloud

Public: Reese Wells

Call to Order: Chair Laura Veach called the meeting to order at 12:10pm.

Ethics Awareness Act: Laura read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked Board members for conflicts and appearances of conflicts with the matters before the Board today. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Announcements: Laura recognized David Turpin and Starleen Scott Robbins spoke about Worth Bolton's memorial service. David Turpin motioned that the Board establish a scholarship named in Worth Bolton's name. Angie Banther seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved. Danny Graves stated that the North Carolina Association of Addiction Recovery Facilitators (NCAARF) Conference was probably a good scholarship choice for this motion.

Laura recognized Dr. Geri Miller. Geri then introduced Reese Wells, one of her graduate students, who is working on a project writing a history of substance use disorder and the board. He would be conducting voluntary interviews of any interested board members during and following the meeting. Geri then spoke about the significance and symbolism of gifts she brought to each of the Board members.

Approval of the Agenda: Angie motioned to approve. Elizabeth Ramos seconded, and the agenda was approved.

HEARINGS

The Board conducted a non-response Hearing against Christopher Macemore.

The Board voted to suspend Macemore's credential for 5 years with right to reconsider if a response was received. The vote was unanimous, except one abstention.

The Board conducted a non-response Hearing against Polly Ricks.

The Board suspend her credential for five years following a unanimous vote.

The Board resumed normal order.

Approval of Minutes: Dennis Hagarty reported that he was not noted as present in the draft minutes. Cheryl Gentile motioned to approve with correction to add Dennis to attending Board members. Angie Banther seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Johnny Bass provided a report on the finances. Barden answered questions about the renewals and fee structures from 2019. Johnny then provided an investment report. There were no questions.

Johnny then presented a proposal to invest \$300,000 additional funds in one of Baird's investment projects.

Barden reported that Baird was aware that the Board did not want to invest in alcohol.

Starleen was recognized and asked that pharmaceuticals be included in prohibitive investments.

Stephanie Robinson asked if there would be additional fees associated with this. She asked if any Board members had any prior relationships with the investment product group. Johnny reported that the Board did not.

Angie motioned that the Board accept this proposal.

David Turpin was recognized and asked how this investment might be affected with the new Board coming July 1, 2020. Johnny reported there would be no adverse effect, and Board could withdraw at any time.

Al Mooney stated he was against this investment proposal. He reported that he felt the Board's responsibility was to regulate counseling profession, not invest money.

Johnny stated that Board had fiduciary responsibility. Al responded that he felt this was against the Board's statutory mission.

Mike McGuire was recognized, he stated that he was concerned about the finances being spread thin and asked how the board accrued this much assets.

Laura noted that the Board members may want to review the Board's investment policies and there was a motion on the table.

Laura asked that the Board's policy on investments be circulated to the Board members.

Elizabeth was recognized and stated that her experience with non-profits led her to believe that organizations should have prudent reserves.

Johnny reviewed examples of large cap funds found in the investment product under consideration.

Stephanie seconded the motion to invest in the new product. Al and Mike voted against the motion, Elizabeth and Starleen abstained. The motion carried.

Government and Policy Update: Randolph Cloud was recognized and provided update on the NC legislature. Johnny Bass let the Board know about a National Federation of Independent Business conference at RBC Center later in February.

Board Office Report: Barden reported that the new branding of the credentials and Board name is proceeding at pace.

Angie asked that the Board notify the appropriate third-party billing authorities.

Starleen reported on agencies within the Division of Health and Human Services that notified billers of the law changes.

Barden reported that the Board Buzz was sent to 8,000 people about the law changes on December 9th, 2019.

Committee Reports:

Standards Committee – Chair Kate Gomes stated that the UNC-Pembroke Master of Social Work Substance use disorder certificate program was accepted as a Criteria C school. Discussion was also held on charging fee for Criteria C approval. No decision was reached in committee.

Quality Assurance Committee – Mark Crabtree was recognized and there were no actions to report.

Ethics Committee – Board counsel Nelson Harris provided an update of the Ethics Committee.

Program Presentation by Reese Wells – Geri introduced Reese who talked about his graduate work. Geri then asked that the Board post this final product on the website. This request was readily accepted, and the Board office asked for any final product as soon as completed.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Laura spoke about the upcoming changes in composition of the Board and asked Board to consider transition plan.

Laura asked that the Board consider the existing bylaws and asked that recommended changes to be sent to Board office. Nelson was also asked to review the bylaws. Under the current bylaws, all changes must be sent to the full Board 15 days prior to any consideration and adoption by the Board.

Laura asked that after July 1, 2020 the existing committees participate as ex-officio advisors to the new Board.

Laura then spoke briefly about the history of the Board, including the approval of Criteria C schools by the Standards Committee. She also tasked Board members to make sure their committee work does not “get lost” in the transition.

Laura asked Barden send out the links for Board member appointments.

Laura then presented a proposal from the Physicians Health Program, for a consulting agreement with the Board in addition to providing services for impaired professionals. A final component of their proposal was worked to adopt of new rules for the Board covering the program.

Laura asked the Board to authorize a contract with PHP, but the final proposal for Impaired Professional Services, would not be selected until review by Finance Committee and Attorney.

David Turpin motioned to authorize the Board to do this. No second was offered.

Discussion followed.

Starleen stated concern about conflicts of interest that would result in the Board announcing a Request for Proposal which would be in part developed by the PHP.

Discussion followed.

Several members questioned PHP’s motives in writing the proposal and eventually submitting for it as well.

Cheryl proposed the Board examine starting its own impaired professionals’ program and cited the Nursing Board as an example.

Barden stated he could also submit rules based on the other clients of PHP.

Al motioned for the staff to review existing professions that have impaired professional programs to have drafts ready for a vote by April meeting.

Angie seconded this new motion.

Mike was recognized and stated that a potential RFP be put out and that RFP would ask for help in rules.

The proposal by PHP was not considered, Laura expressed her disappointment that it was not considered.

Johnny was recognized for an amendment to the motion, authorizing the staff, executive committee, and legal counsel to collaborate on a proposal.

Angie did not consent to the amendment. The amendment was withdrawn.

The question was called, and a vote held on Al Mooney's motion.

Votes in the Affirmative –12, Votes in the Negative – 4, Abstain – 1 (Miller). The motion carried.

Laura then recognized Geri Miller who spoke about the work of the Board. She then asked that a statement be entered into the record "verbatim", as follows:

"I, Dr. Geri Miller, believe that structural board changes of number reduction and appointment rather than election are wrong. I believe the voices of addictions specialist professionals in this state are being silenced."

She then gave further remarks expressing her sadness but acceptance of the Board's changes.

Starleen was recognized and she reported on a bill that passed the United States House that would make some major changes to confidentiality laws under 42 CFR. She reported there was major concern about access to treatment. She asked the Board to be prepared to make a public comment when the bill is next presented.

David Turpin reported that this had not been considered by the IC&RC to date.

Board members were asked to stay following the meeting to receive plaques for their service and enjoy refreshments.

Adjournment: Angie motioned to adjourn. Elizabeth seconded, and the meeting ended.

Next Meeting: 12:00pm, April 17th, 2020 – Sheraton Imperial Hotel