

North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board
Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2025

Members Present: Kendra Davis, Kathy Allen, Virginia Johnson, Johnny Bass, Flo Stein, Lauren Quick, Katie Salmons, Anita Daniels

Staff: Barden Culbreth, Donna Strickland, Carrie Duhon, Creighton Knight

Public: Nancy Patch, RaKeia McNeill, Larry McNeill, Sharon Johnson

Call to Order and Introductions: Chair Kendra Davis called the meeting to order and asked for everyone around the table to begin introductions.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Kendra read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked for any conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts. Hearing none, the meeting continued.

Approval of Agenda: Kathy Allen motioned to approve the agenda. Virginia Johnson seconded and the agenda was approved.

Public Comment:

The floor was opened for public comment.

Nancy Patch, CADC, was recognized and requested the reconsideration of her master's degree for LCAS eligibility, specifically she spoke to the LCAS Criteria C requirements. Barden advised that her degree was not a Criteria C degree (Walden University), nor did her master's degree have a clinical internship. She claimed to have passed the IC&RC Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor (AADC) exam in Maine, but that credential was now lapsed.

Rakeia McNeill spoke next. She has a master's in human relations. The staff had advised her that her degree did not meet the qualifications for the LCAS.

RaKeia McNeill also noted her frustration that the Board office would not communicate by phone and that the Standards Committee reviewing her application asked her to submit additional materials, including course syllabi.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: Kathy motioned to approve. Johnny Bass seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Financial Report: Johnny recognized Barden Culbreth who provided a review of the Board's quarterly financial report. Johnny motioned to approve the report. Anita Daniels seconded and the Financial Report was accepted.

Board Chair Report: Kendra thanked the committees for their work.

Board Office Report: Barden walked through the recent 93B report (see attached)

Committee Reports: *See attached reports*

Standards Committee: Katie Salmons presented a committee report which she outlined with the Board. Barden confirmed he was working with APNC to help put on a training conference. Kendra asked that the training be centrally located.

Kendra Davis and Virginia Johnson work regularly with NCFADS to host conferences and offered to help with planning.

Virginia asked that the Board's conference have its own identity.

Discussion followed on scheduling, and it was agreed that June would be the ideal time to host this conference. Breakouts can be 1 hour or 3 hours.

Katie asked about the Board's ability to enforce unlicensed persons who have creative titles such as coach or therapist. Carrie Duhon, legal counsel for the Board, answered that the Board would probably need to handle each case individually in Superior Court. Katie shared the online national groups that are providing certifications and we do not have oversight of their practice.

Katie asked for a motion to accept the committee's report. Johnny motioned to approve, and the motion was approved.

Ethics Committee: Kathy Allen, Ethics Committee Chair, shared the updates from this committee.

Virginia motioned to approve, Flo Stein seconded the motion, and it carried.

Quality Assurance Committee: Anita Daniels, Chair of Quality Assurance, provided a report of recent applications reviewed by this committee.

Kathy motioned to approve all reports submitted. Johnny seconded. The motion carried.

IC&RC Update: Donna shared the updates from the recent IC&RC conference.

Johnny motioned to approve. Anita seconded and the report was approved.

Government and Policy Report: Randolph Cloud provided an update at the NC General Assembly and the ongoing negotiations on the state budget. He discussed redistricting efforts at the legislature.

He discussed the decision by NCDHHS to cut Medicaid provider rates. This has been met with skepticism by some members at the legislature.

Randolph asked the providers who serve on the Board to share their experience with Medicaid Provider reimbursement. Anita noted that her colleagues have shared with her their concerns about the cuts. She's noted an increase in the clients that she's seeing asking how the cuts will affect service.

Kathy noted that she's read a lot about Medicaid fraud in the media and that stopping the fraud would go a long way to fixing the issue. Flo noted it was an evolving business to manage Medicaid and catching fraud is getting better.

Katie Salmons has heard that Medicaid clients far outweigh the number of providers who can serve them. She spoke about deportation and the role that is playing with consumers.

Discussion followed.

Flo motioned to accept the Government and Policy Report. Virginia seconded, and the report was approved.

Legal Update: Carrie Duhon provided an update but noted that much had been covered in committee reports.

Unfinished Business: None. Carrie asked to speak with the staff after the meeting to discuss questions about applicants speaking in public comments.

New Business: None.

Adjourn: Kathy motioned to adjourn. Anita seconded and the meeting ended.

Next Meetings: January 16, April 17, July 17, and October 16, 2026.

NCASPPB Standards Committee Quarterly Report
October 2025

Submission Date: 10/20/25

Members: Stephanie Robinson, Lauren Quick, Katie Salmons, and Donna Strickland

1. Fall Criteria C Newsletter will be sent to Criteria C program in November

- a. First one-year renewal reminders going out
 - i. First set of Criteria C reviews will be done August of 2026
 - 1. App State MFT
 - 2. UNCP CMHC
- b. Invoices being included along with guidelines and templates
 - i. New review/renewal template fully updated
- c. Remind all programs of new Verification of 300 Hour Supervised Practice form for all Criteria C LCAS A applications
- d. Remind of new Administrative Fee for Criteria C programs
 - i. Renewals \$500 per year; New Programs \$2000 per program

2. AADC exam update is still temporarily paused by IC&RC

- a. Pending reference review. As you recall from previous notes, this review was not done during initial Item Writing Meetings

3. Criteria C School Updates

- a. ECU Masters in Social Work submitted a new proposal for Criteria C program
 - i. On first review, still missing required number of addiction-specific courses
 - ii. Still pending Administrative Fee payment

4. Scope of Practice, CEU, and Updated Language in Admin Rules and GS

- a. Conversations with Barden, Donna, and legal around updated addiction-specific language in Admin Rules and possibly General Statutes (eventually). Specifically:
- b. Looking at changing language to comply with DSM-5-TR (substance-related and addictive disorders). Will include process/behavioral addictions, not just substances.
- c. Looking at scope of practice for all credentials considering varying language in GS and Admin Rules (*substance abuse, substance use, addictive disorders, addictive disorders or disease*)
- d. Looking at ability to accept CEUs for process or behavioral addiction considering language and scope of practice language
- e. Committee would like to continue to explore:
 - i. Does the NCASPPB not have jurisdiction over “addiction counselors/therapists/specialists?” (Ex. Certified Sex Addiction Therapist and Certified Multiple Addiction Therapist). If an individual calls themselves an addiction therapist/addiction counselor/addiction specialist, who has oversight?

5. LCAS-A Appeal

- a. Applicant appealing the denial of her Human Resources degree as qualifying for the LCAS.
- b. Similar to applicants with Criminal Justice Degrees, Standards Committee would like clearer, more straightforward language about what degrees and clinical experience satisfy:
 1. (clinical degree) 90-113.40 (c)(1)a: “Has a minimum of a master's degree with a clinical application in a human services field from a regionally accredited college or university.”
 2. 21 NCAC 68 .0101: "Clinical application" means the assumption of professional and ethical responsibilities in the form of clinical supervision in a clinical setting for 300 hours, as well as the utilization of practice dimensions that include:
 - (a) clinical evaluation;
 - (b) treatment planning;

- (c) referral;
- (d) service coordination;
- (e) counseling;
- (f) education for the individual client, family, or community
- (g) documentation.

6. Committee Action Items

- a. Will continue conversation with Barden, Donna, and legal around scope of practice concerns, updated language, and CEUs for process or behavioral addiction as well as changing language to comply with DSM-5-TR (substance-related and addictive disorders).
- b. Deemed Status
 - i. Standards Committee would still like to explore reassessing and possibly removing as application (when possible)
- c. Standards Committee is requesting the Board consider hosting a NCASPPB conference

NCASPPB Quality Assurance Report

QA Movement Since July 25, 2025:

- QA-176-25 10/22/2025 OAH hearing (denial appeal).
 - QA-180-25 August 2025 QA Interview – Allowed to proceed, pending supervisor.
 - QA-191-25 August 2025 QA Interview – Allowed to proceed under Consent Order.
 - QA-200-25 Scheduled for November 2025 QA interview.
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- Average # of SBI reports received every 3 months: 350
 - SBI reports with criminal records received since July 25, 2025: 96
 - Approved without full referral to QA: 93

- Sent to QA for review: 1
- Pending for follow-up (applicants still missing requirements): 2

NCASPPB Ethics Committee Report

Cases resolved via Consent Order since July 25, 2025: (5 total)

- 860-24 – Surrender
- 865-25 – Revocation
- 887-25 – Suspension
- 900-25 – Suspension
- 901-25 – Surrender

Cases resolved via Letter of Caution: 870-25

Cases dismissed: (6 total)

- 883-25
- 888-25
- 891-25
- 894-25
- 895-25
- 897-25

Final Agency Decisions issued: (3 total)

- 817-24 – Revocation of CADCI.
- 825-24 – Suspension of LCAS. Revocation of CCS-I.
- 867-25 – Revocation of LCAS.

Petition for Judicial Review: 809-23 (Board decision upheld)

Injunction: 834-25 (granted)

Other:

- 849-24 – OAH Hearing 10/22/2025.

875-25 – Unable to serve. Blocked out of the system, credential expires Nov 2025.

**NC GS 93B-2 Reporting
October 24, 2025**

- 1) **North Carolina Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board
P.O. Box 10126
Raleigh, NC 27605**

**Dr. Kendra Davis, Board Chair
(Professional Member, Governor Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2026**

**Dr. Stephanie Robinson, Vice Chair and Standards Committee Chair
(Professional Member, Senate Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2028**

**Johnny T. Bass, Treasurer
(Public Member, Governor Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2026**

**Kathy Allen, Secretary and Ethics Committee Chair
(Professional Member, House Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2027**

**Anita Daniels, Quality Assurance Committee Chair
(Professional Member, Governor Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2026**

**Virginia Johnson
(Professional Member, House Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2027**

**Lauren Quick
(Professional Member, Governor Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2027**

Katie Salmons
(Professional Member, Senate Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2028

Flo Stein
(Public Member, Governor Appointment)
Expires: 06/30/2026

1a) Total Number of Licensees Supervised by the Board – 10,044

- 2) **The number of persons who applied to the Board for examination – 887**
applicants paid to take their licensing exam in FY24-25.
- 3) **The number of persons who were refused examination – 0**
- 4) **The number of persons who took the exam – 839** exams were taken in FY24-25.
- 5) **The number to whom initial licenses were issued – 1,078** initial licenses were issued.
- 5a) **The number who failed the examination – 315** in FY24-25.
- 6) **The number who applied for license by reciprocity or comity – 48**
- 7) **The number who were granted licenses by reciprocity or comity – 33** (*OLB is member of reciprocity consortium that eliminates applicants not eligible for reciprocity. Any gap between applicants applying through reciprocity and granted license is due to failure to complete NC-specific requirements. e.g. background check*)
 - a. **The number of official complaints received involving licensed and unlicensed activities – 63**
 - b. **The number of disciplinary actions taken against licensees or other actions against non-licensees, including injunctive relief. – See Question 8).**

8) The number of licenses suspended or revoked:

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Suspension: 5

Revocation: 2

NON-DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:

Surrender: 6

Dismissal with Letter of Caution/Warning/Reprimand/Additional CE: 18

9) The number of licenses terminated for any other reason other than failure to pay the required renewal fee – 0

9a) The number of applicants for a license and, of that number, the number granted license: There were 2,194 new applicants in FY24-25. 1,078 initial licenses were granted from the larger, general applicant pool.

9b) The number of applicants with a conviction record and, of that number, the number granted a license, denied a license for any reason, and denied a license because of a conviction: 482 applicants in the FY had criminal records, 455 of which were approved to continue licensure process. Twenty (20) applicants were denied based on their criminal history or based on still serving probation.

(9c) The number of applicants who are active-duty military or military veterans, the number granted a license, the number denied a license for any reason, and a summary of the reasons for denial. Last year, the Board added this as a demographic attribute to its database. So far, 797 licensees have been identified as veterans, and 39 have identified as active duty.

(9d) The number of applicants who are military spouses, the number granted a license, the number denied a license for any reason, and a summary of the reasons for denial. No applicants identified as themselves as spouses of active-duty military, military veterans, or military veterans by applying for licensure pursuant to NC Gen Stat 93B-15.1 or 50 U.S.C. 4025.

- 10) **The substance of any anticipated request by the occupational licensing board to the General Assembly to amend statutes related to the occupational licensing board.** –The Board is considering legislation that would clarify scope of practice to distinguish between substance use disorder counseling, behavioral addictions, and mental health counseling.
- 11) **The substance of any anticipated change in rules adopted by the occupational licensing board or the substance of any anticipated adoption of new rules by the occupational licensing board.** – The Board is considering adopting or amending rules to clarify scope of practice to distinguish between substance use disorder counseling, behavioral addictions, and mental health counseling.