

# MINUTES

## UTAH Clinical Mental Health Counselor Licensing Board MEETING

March 17, 2015  
Room 474 - 4<sup>th</sup> floor – 9:00 A.M.  
Heber M. Wells Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

**CONVENED:** 9:04 A.M.

**ADJOURNED:** 11:50 A.M.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Board Secretary:**

Dane Ishihara  
Lee Avery

**Board Members Present:**

Jason H. King, Ph.D., Chairperson  
Ruth A. Baxter, Vice Chairperson  
Rodger Bischoff  
Travis Manning  
Jerri Sena

**DOPL Staff:**

Debbie Harry, Compliance Specialist

**Guests:**

None

### **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

#### **MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes dated December 2, 2014. Ms. Baxter made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sena and carried unanimously.

#### **Compliance Report:**

Ms. Harry, Compliance Specialist

1. Mr. Gregory Hood is not in compliance with his stipulation. He submitted January, February and March supervisory reports. He missed five check ins since he met with the Board on December 2, 2014. Before then, he missed seven check ins. The Board reviewed the minutes from his last meeting with the Board.

#### **Discussion:**

The Board wanted to know if the Texas Board made a decision regarding his Texas license. The Board noted that Mr. Hood has been out of compliance with his probation half of the time since his probation started. The Board discussed issuing him a fine, or extending

his probation.

The Board is not sure Mr. Hood learned from his past mistakes or probation of his license.

2. Ms. Harry advised the Board that Mr. Aaron Gardner is meeting with the Board regarding an education interview. Mr. Gardner is licensed and became involved in a dual relationship. He was issued a public reprimand, needed to meet with the Board and complete continuing education hours and submit an essay.

**Discussion:**

The Board reviewed Mr. Gardner's stipulation, continuing education and essay. Mr. Gardner's response included his accountability, lessons learned and what he will do to keep this from happening again.

3. The Board reviewed Mr. Merrell's application and criminal history documentation. Mr. Merrell submitted a letter to the Division. The Board noted that this letter is a good outline regarding his criminal history. He successfully completed practicum and internship.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Gregory Hood, probation interview

Mr. Hood met with the Board. Mr. Manning conducted the interview. Mr. Hood stated his practice is going well. He has a good relationship with his supervisor and clients. The Board noted that Mr. Hood's probation with the Board is scheduled to end April 18, 2015. The Board asked Mr. Hood how things are going regarding the hearing with the Texas Board. Mr. Hood stated the hearing has not taken place yet. It is unknown when this will happen. Mr. Steinagel stated that he talked with the Texas Board and confirmed this is what he was told as well. The Board advised Mr. Hood that the records show he missed calling the drug screen number five times since he last met with the Board December 2, 2014. At the December Board meeting, the Board told Mr. Hood he needed to be in compliance with is stipulation one hundred percent of the time. Not calling the drug screen number makes him out of compliance once again. The Board expressed concerns that Mr. Hood has not been taking his probation seriously. The Board will be imposing another fine due to his

continued non compliance. The Board would like to extend Mr. Hoods probation but feels there is not enough evidence to support this recommendation. The Board advised Mr. Hood that once his license is removed from this current probation status and if there are further violations the Board would strongly recommend that his license be suspended instead of another probation term.

The Board advised Mr. Hood that he still needs to let the Division know the outcome of the hearing in Texas. If he does not then the Division will open an investigation and may take further action against his license. Mr. Bischoff made a motion to recommend a \$500.00 fine, because he has not been in compliance with this stipulation half of the time that his license has been on probation, and because he has been fined once before. He will need to have this fine paid and have met all other probation requirements before the Division removes him from probation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baxter and carried unanimously. **Mr. Hood is not in compliance with his stipulation because he missed five check ins.**

Aaron Gardner, education interview

Mr. Gardner met with the Board. Dr. King conducted the interview. The Board introduced themselves to Mr. Gardner. Mr. Gardner advised the Board that he crossed boundaries when he allowed a client to attend family social outings and live with a family member. Mr. Gardner stated the CE courses he completed focused on setting boundaries. He learned a lot from these courses, especially the importance of consulting with colleagues.

The Board reviewed Mr. Gardner's essay, noting that he took accountability and ownership of his violations. The Board reminded Mr. Gardner that when he has a client in distress he needs to help the client connect to the types of services in the communities that would best help the client. Ms. Sena made a motion to accept Mr. Gardner's CEs and essay. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bischoff and carried unanimously.

Stuart Merrell, ACMHC application review of CH

Mr. Merrell met with the Board. Mr. Bischoff conducted the interview. Mr. Merrell reviewed his criminal history with the Board. He has an addiction and lost his Texas license. He went into counseling and learned how to forgive himself and move forward.

He graduated with a master's degree in counseling on February 12, 2015. He is working for two agencies now, doing court ordered substance abuse and domestic violence classes. He attends his own therapy once a week. He has been clean from alcohol for five years. Dealing with clients with addiction issues is a consistent reminder of where he has been. This helps keep him to continue moving forward. Ms. Sena made a motion to approve Mr. Merrell's ACMHC application. The motion was seconded by Ms. Baxter and carried unanimously.

Jolene Blackburn, ACMHC application review of CH

Ms. Blackburn met with the Board. Ms. Sena conducted the interview. Ms. Blackburn advised the Board that she is applying for her CMHC and is meeting with the Board due to her criminal history. She completed her education in 2007, has her supervised hours and passed both exams. Ms. Blackburn stated she was charged on several different occasions of theft. She went into therapy and took accountability for her criminal history. Her ACMHC license expired and she stopped working. Ms. Sena made a motion to approve Ms. Blackburn's license without restrictions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bischoff and carried unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Proposal for amendments to CE requirement

The Board reviewed the proposed language change for R156-60c-304 Continuing Education. Mr. Ishihara stated he will review the current legislative changes to see if there are changes that would affect the social work board. He will review these with the Board and will make one rule change.

Ms. Baxter made a motion to accept the current changes as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bischoff and carried unanimously.

2. Proposal to no longer require passing of NCE

Mr. Ishihara reviewed the proposal to remove the NCE requirement from R156-60c-302c, qualifications for licensure- examination. Mr. Bischoff made a motion to accept the proposed rule change. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sena and carried unanimously.

3. Determine a meeting date in December 2015

Due to a conflict with the Board meeting December 15, the Board moved the December meeting to December 8, 2015. The Board recognized a conflict with the

June 16, 2015 Board meeting and moved this meeting to June 24, 2015.

4. CACREP degree needed for licensure

The Board reviewed the information requiring a CACREP degree from an accredited program for Utah licensure. Dr. King shared with the Board that requiring a CACREP degree would allow for easier licensing for licensees moving from one state to another. This would also align the education requirement with the other mental health professions. It strengthens the professional identity and individuals working for the federal government are required to have completed the CACREP program. The Board tabled this discussion until the June Board meeting when other stakeholders would be invited to attend the meeting.

**BOARD MEETINGS:**

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2015

**2015 Board meetings tentatively scheduled:**  
September 15, December 15

Motion to adjourn at 11:50 A.M.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

6/24/15  
Date Approved

(ss) Ruth A. Baxter  
Chairperson, Utah Clinical Mental Health Counselor  
Licensing Board

6/24/15  
Date Approved

(ss) Dkh  
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &  
Professional Licensing