

**Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Marriage and Family Advisory Committee Meeting
February 9, 2024
DRAFT Minutes**

- I. Call to Order.** Mary Jones, Chair of the Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 10am.
- Committee Members.** Advisory Committee members present by Zoom were Mary Jones, Jim Kilmartin, Jurdene Coleman, Nicole Eitzen, John Fleeker, Jim Godbey, Chris Habben, and Heidi Vela. Marcie Lechtenberg was absent.
- Staff.** BSRB staff present by Zoom were David Fye and Leslie Allen.
- II. Approval of Agenda.** Jurdene Coleman moved to approve the agenda. John Fleeker seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on December 12, 2023.** Jim Kilmartin moved to approve the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting on December 12, 2023. Jim Godbey seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. Updates from National Association Meetings**
- A. American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) Conference January 7-9, 2024.** The Chair of the Advisory Committee and David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, attended the annual conference for AASCB with professional counseling Board member Laura Shaughnessy. The Executive Director and Advisory Committee Chair summarized topic covered at the conference, including discussion on regulating artificial intelligence involved with mental health practice and other technology changes; frequency of certain types of disciplinary complaints and discussion on creating a disciplinary grid for certain violations; supervision; and discussions on the upcoming launch of the multi-state compact for professional counseling; and jurisprudence examinations.
- V. Executive Director's Report.** The Executive Director for the BSRB provided an update on agency operations, updates from recent Board meetings, and legislative topics.
- VI. Old Business**
- A. Discussion on Possible Updates to Educational Equivalency Standards in K.A.R. 102-5-3.** The Executive Director noted that each of the Advisory Committees has been asked to review the education regulation for their profession, to see if the program and coursework requirements for applicants from non-accredited programs need to be updated or otherwise modified. It was noted that this regulation is currently in the process of proposed changes being implemented. Leslie Allen, Assistant Director and Licensing Manager for the BSRB, noted that one item for the Committee to consider is the requirement of a 3-hour course in psychopathology for applicants for a clinical license. The Assistant Director noted that some programs

have a course that is 2.7 hours, so applicants with that deficiency must take another psychopathology course in that area to meet the full requirements for licensure. It was noted that two previous issues included a handful of applicants that had trouble meeting the current definition of “in residence,” however two changes are being made to address that issue in the proposed changes to regulation: (1) this requirement is being changed to only be required from applicants from non-accredited programs; and (2) the definition of “in residence” is being modified to allow individuals to meet this definition either in-person at the physical location of the school or remotely by face-to-face contact by synchronous video conferencing by screen. Also, the previous language required 300 hours as part of a practicum, but changes enacted in 2023 Sub. for SB 131 allow those hours to be made up, so this has largely addressed this issue from applicants from out-of-state who lacked hours as part of their practicums. The Assistant Director noted that another item for the Advisory Committee to consider is language that states the program must require a certain number of hours in certain areas. It is possible that an applicant received those hours, but the program did not require the hours in those areas, which creates a small conflict. The Executive Director asked Advisory Committee members to review the coursework and program-level requirements in the regulation and to be ready to discuss possible changes at a future meeting.

VII. New Business

- A. Possible Survey of Licensees.** The Advisory Committee Chair noted the BSRB has surveyed social workers in the past by the Executive Director working with members of that Advisory Committee to identify topics of interest, draft questions, then summarize the data in a report. It was noted the BSRB has the ability to offer a survey to each group of licensees this year, so the Advisory Committee was asked whether there was interest in creating a survey for marriage and family therapists. The Executive Director provided a summary of the topics covered in the survey of social workers. Advisory Committee members expressed support for collecting information on interest in a multi-state compact, any issues for students transition to private practice, supervision, unprofessional conduct topics, and the effectiveness of permanent tiered licensure. Advisory Committee members were asked to be prepared to discuss specific areas for survey questions at the next meeting.
- B. Discussion Topics for 2024.** Advisory Committee members noted it could be helpful to discuss professional wills and transition of client records for practitioners who pass away unexpectedly or abandon records. The Executive Director noted the Board has discussed this topic within the context of unprofessional conduct and some of this language will be considered to be added as a professional conduct standard. Once this is added, then the BSRB will be able to ask individuals about their plans on the license renewal application. Advisory Committee noted that this topic could be a good survey question, to collect information on what percentage of practitioners already have a plan or policy in place to address this topic. Advisory Committee members noted that there has been a language transition from “marriage and family therapy” to “couple and family therapy,” and noted it may be helpful for the Advisory Committee to discuss updating of language to stay current in this area. Another item

for discussion is that individuals seeking clinical licensure must complete their hours in not fewer than 24 months, which is the same period of time for license renewal, but if they complete their hours briefly over 24 months, then they must pay to renew their license then almost immediately pay to move to a different license. It was noted that it could be helpful if there was a way to address this topic, to be considerate of licensees paying both full fees. It was noted that adjusting length of licensure would require a statutory change, but the Advisory Committee could discuss this topic further at a future meeting to develop a solution. Advisory Committee members were asked to consider discussion on new topics for 2024 at the next meeting.

VIII. Next Meeting. The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 12, 2024 (all meetings at 10am).

IX. Adjournment. Jim Kilmartin moved to adjourn the meeting. Jurdene Coleman seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.