BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
ADDICTION COUNSELING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Deb Stidham at 10:00 a.m.

Advisory Committee Members in Attendance: Advisory Committee members who participated by Zoom were Deb Stidham, Jacqueline Lightcap, Christina Boyd, Jason Hess, Chad Jacobs, Michael James, and Charity Kossin. Lisa Carter, Shane Hudson, and Dulcinea Rakestraw were absent.

BSRB Staff in Attendance: David Fye, Leslie Allen, and Sami Barksdale were present by Zoom.

Visitors: None.

II. **Review and Approval for the Agenda:** Chad Jacobs moved to approve the agenda with no changes. Jason Hess seconded. The motion passed.

III. **Review and Approval of Minutes from Advisory Committee Meeting on March 3, 2023.** Chad Jacobs moved to approve the minutes. Charity Kossin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

IV. **Executive Director Report:** David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory (BSRB), provided updates on BSRB operations and legislative matters.

V. **Old Business**

A. **Discussion on Unprofessional Conduct Regulations from Other Professions.** The Advisory Committee was asked to review proposed changes to the unprofessional conduct regulations from the other professions regulated by the BSRB to determine whether any proposed changes from other professions should be included in the proposed changes for the addiction counseling profession. The Advisory Committee was supportive of including additional changes:

i. **New Item on Social Media**. The Advisory Committee discussed the role of social media in society, including as a communication tool for individuals from younger generations. The Advisory Committee expressed support for ensuring that informed consent an element of any final recommendation on this topic. The Advisory Committee decided to allow members to consider possible language for this item and continue discussion at a future meeting.

ii. **Item 13(l)**. The Advisory Committee noted the unprofessional conduct regulations for other profession included a similar anti-discrimination

item, but those professions had included additional terms in their proposed changes. Members discussed additional items to add, but there was not consensus on additions. The Executive Director noted that part of the reasons certain professions may have different language on this topic is due to some professions wishing to use language recommended by their national associations. Advisory Committee members noted at least one profession included "immigration status," though it was noted that legally, there may be some restrictions on which individuals qualify for specific services, due to existing language in law. The Advisory Committee did not have specific recommendations for changes, but may consider possible changes at a future meeting.

iii. **New Item on Distance Counseling**. The Advisory Committee noted the proposed changes for the professional counseling profession included a new item on telehealth. The Advisory Committee discussed the role of telehealth, including the need for informed consent. The Advisory Committee noted support for providing direction on telehealth, but did not make a specific recommendation on changes to the unprofessional conduct regulations on this item. Christina Boyd noted she would forward materials which could be distributed to members of the Advisory Committee for review.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion on Types of Changes Necessary to be Reported for Clinical Training Plans in K.A.R. 102-7-6(j). The Executive Director noted the Board was examining the requirement in regulation that changes to clinical training plans would need to be submitted within 45-days of making a change and the language that failure to submit a change within that timeframe means the hours attained after that point would not be counted towards a clinical licensure. The Chair stated that the existing language is strict and, based on the current wording, the Board has little flexibility when evaluating applicants who fail to submit a change to an approved training plan. She noted that some applicants have lost a significant number of hours and had to complete those hours again. The Executive Director noted he has attempted to obtain information on standards for supervision for other professions from other states and national associations, but supervision standards vary significantly in that some states do not require an approved training plan and evaluate all hours at the conclusion of the experience, some states require submitting hours continuously as they are accrued, etc. Advisory Committee members expressed support for additional reminders to submit changes to approved training plans. The Advisory Committee discussed what types of changes would be submitted and the Committee was supportive of changing from "all changes" to "substantial changes," and including language that this would "include, but be not limited to setting, type of clients, and changes in supervisors." The Advisory Committee was also supportive of providing forms to applicants to use when submitting changes to plans. These recommendations will be submitted back to the Board. Also, the Chair noted that prior to a recent change, applicants were required to accrue 4,000 hours in no less than 2 years, but

this was changed to 3,000 hours. When the change was made, the timeframe was not changed. The Advisory Committee was supportive of lowering the minimum time period from 24 months to 18 months, to maintain the previous ratio. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Board at a future meeting.

B. **Implementation of New Student Addiction Counselor License.** The Executive Director noted that the BSRB is working on the technical aspects of implementing this new license type. The goal is to have new forms ready and other technical processes to issue the new licenses tested shortly after the beginning of the fiscal year. The agency will also be taking steps for the specific amount of the fee to be set in regulation.

C. **Discussion on Reciprocity- Years of Practice or Degree/Education.** Leslie Allen, the Assistant Director and Licensing Manager for the BSRB, noted that in other states, qualifications for addiction counselors vary and the training some individuals received to work in this field is not through a college or university, as their status is more of a credential. Therefore, when they apply for licensure in Kansas, they lack the coursework or bachelor's degree required. Advisory Committee members noted that some individuals that had requested support for allowing years of practice as a substitute may have been individuals supportive of the new student temporary addiction counselor license, so implementation of that new license type may address this issue. Also, it was noted that if license standards are lowered for individuals coming from other states, but there is no change to the requirements for in-state applicants, this would create issues. Advisory Committee members will research requirements in other states to become certified, credentialed, etc. No official recommendation was made.

D. **Regulation Review**

   i. **K.A.R. 102-7-9 Continuing Education**. Advisory Committee members noted that the regulations do not allow all hours to be counted if no post-test is required and may discuss possible changes on this at a future meeting. Additionally, the Advisory Committee was supportive of removing language allowing self-directed learning projects. The Advisory Committee will continue discussion at a future meeting.

   ii. **K.A.R. 102-7-10 Documentation of Continuing Education**. Advisory Committee members discussed language that copies would not be accepted and expressed support for removing that language. The Advisory Committee will continue discussion at a future meeting.

VII. **Recognition of Outgoing Chair.** The Advisory Committee noted that Deb Stidham's second term on the Board would be ending, so this would be her last meeting as Advisory Committee Chair. Advisory Committee members and BSRB staff thanked Deb for her service to the Board and the Advisory Committee.

VIII. **Next Meeting.** Friday, August 25, 2023, at 10 a.m.

IX. **Adjournment.** Jason Hess moved to adjourn the meeting. Chad Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.