

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2024**

Approved Minutes

- I. Call to Order.** Laura Shaughnessy, Chair of the Advisory Committee, opened the meeting and called roll.

Advisory Committee Members: Advisory Committee members who participated by Zoom were Laura Shaughnessy, Jim Kilmartin, Harriet Bachner, Michael Countryman, Bob Kircher, Vanessa Perez, Andrew Secor and Edil Torres-Rivera. Melissa Briggs and Acha Goris were absent.

BSRB Staff: David Fye and Leslie Allen were present by Zoom.

Guests: Callie Marino, Unber Ahmad, and Tammi Lee.

- II. Agenda Approval.** Jim Kilmartin moved to approve the agenda. Bob Kircher seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Presentation on the National Counselor Examination (NCE) and the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) by Dr. Unber Ahmad, Director of Assessments and Lead Psychometrician, and Callie Marino, Vice President of Credentialing and Quality Assurance for the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC).** Dr. Unber Ahmad and Callie Marino provided the Advisory Committee with a history of the licensing examinations for professional counseling presentation and provided specific information about the development and utilization of the National Counseling Examination (NCE) and the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE).
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on December 4, 2023.** Bob Kircher moved to approve the minutes from December 4, 2023. Michael Countryman seconded. The motion passed.
- V. Executive Director's Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, reported on agency updates, updates from recent Board meetings, and legislative updates.
- VI. Updates on Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact.** The Chair of the Advisory Committee, who also serves as the Professional Counseling Compact Commissioner for Kansas, informed the Advisory Committee that Greg Searls, formerly Executive Director for a composite mental health board in Wyoming, is the new Commissioner for the Professional Counseling Compact Commission. While there is not a set date for implementation, it is hoped that the Compact will be operational later this year.
- VII. Information from Annual Conference for the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) January 7-9, 2024.** The Executive Director, Chair of the

Advisory Committee, and the Chair of the Board, were able to attend the AASCB annual meeting. The Executive Director and Chair of the Advisory Committee provided summary information on the topics that were covered at the conference, including an emphasis on artificial intelligence and other technology. Other topics featured at the conference included supervision, disciplinary issues, and jurisprudence. It was noted that the Executive Director serves as a member of the by-law committee and presented information at the conference on a set of proposed by-law changes for AASCB, which were adopted by the membership at the conference.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Continued Discussion on Examination for Clinical License.** The Advisory Committee discussed that students in Kansas have a test passage rate that is 15.0 percent higher than the national average. It was noted the Advisory Committee may revisit the topic of examinations for the professional counseling profession at a future meeting.

IX. New Business

- A. Jurisprudence Examinations.** The Executive Director noted that some states require passage of a jurisprudence examination, to verify that licensees have an appropriate understanding of state-specific rules and requirements for practice. Kansas does not currently require passage of a jurisprudence examination for any of the professions, but there will be discussion by the Board to see if there is interest in the professions considering implementing this. It was noted that most multi-state compacts indicate that if a state requires passage of a jurisprudence examination for licensure, individuals practicing under an out-of-state compact could also be required to take that examination. Advisory Committee members expressed support for Kansas having a jurisprudence examination, noting it could be particularly helpful for licensees coming from other states. The Executive Director noted he would attempt to identify how many states require passage of a jurisprudence examination. Advisory Committee members asked how a requirement of a jurisprudence examination would affect the utilization of staff time. The Executive Director noted it would depend on the model, as some states have a version that operates more as a learning tool, so the Board could get a notification whether someone took it and whether they passed the examination, rather than having to utilize staff time scoring each examination.
- B. Discussion on Supervision.** The Executive Director noted differences in models of supervision requirements between states. It was noted that the BSRB recently assisted the Social Work Advisory Committee by providing a survey to social workers and collected the data in a report published on the BSRB website. If the Advisory Committee would like to consider a similar survey, staff could assist the members of the Committee to collect feedback on supervision and other topics.
- C. Review of K.A.R. 102-3-3a and Consideration of Possible Changes.** The Executive Director noted Advisory Committees are reviewing this regulation for potential changes. The Executive Director asked the members of the Advisory

Committee to review the items in section (f) and (g) to see if those items are still necessary for non-accredited educational programs to meet. The Executive Director noted that if the language can be adjusted, the Advisory Committee could consider an adjustment to the language of this regulation to modify “not lower than” the national accrediting body standards, to instead reference either accredited or not accredited.

- D. Additional Topics for 2024.** Due to time limitations, this topic will be continued to the next meeting.
- X. Next Meeting.** Monday, April 1, 2024, at 10 a.m.
- XI. Adjournment.** Bob Kircher moved to adjourn. Andrew Secor seconded. The motion passed.