

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 1, 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, Melissa Briggs, Michael Countryman, Acha Goris, Bob Kircher, Vanessa Perez and Edil Torres-Rivera. Andrew Secor was absent.

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

- II. Agenda Approval.** Jim Kilmartin moved to approve the agenda. Michael Countryman seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on February 5, 2024.** Bob Kircher moved to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024. Harriet Bachner seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. Executive Director’s Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) provided updates on agency operations, actions from recent Board meetings, and legislative updates.
- V. Old Business**
- A. Discussion on Jurisprudence Examination.** The Executive Director reported that since the last Advisory Committee meeting, he attended a meeting with the Chair of the Advisory Committee and representatives from an organization that could provide a jurisprudence examination for professional counselors in the state of Kansas. He also collected information on the number of states that require a jurisprudence examination, noting that it was about half of the states for some professions. He noted that the Board was interested in ensuring that licensees are aware of the laws in Kansas, but also noted that a new requirement for licensure may be difficult to have added and he did not want licensees to have to pay an additional cost. He shared a proposal by which the BSRB could create a free one-hour webinar that would go through jurisprudence-related questions and answers and offer this approach to jurisprudence as a free continuing education hour if completed. Advisory Committee members expressed support for this proposal and it was noted that the support for this proposal would be communicated back to the Board.

VI. New Business

- A. Advisory Committee Membership.** The Executive Director noted that committee members serve 2-year terms and are able to serve up to 4 terms for a maximum amount of service of 8 years on the Advisory Committee. Three Advisory Committee members are seeking reappointment and Acha Goris plans to step down, as he now lives out of the country, making it difficult to attend Advisory Committee meetings with the time difference. The Board will send out an email requesting individuals interested in serving on the Advisory Committee send a letter of interest and resume to the Executive Director. Materials for these applicants will be sent to Advisory Committee members for review and the Advisory Committee will discuss recommendations on new members at the next meeting.
- B. Discussion on Board-Approved Supervisors.** The Executive Director showed totals for the current number of Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors (LCPCs) and the number of Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs), noting that the total number of Board-approved supervisors for professional counseling was around 250 individuals, a lot less than the total number of clinical practitioners. Given the discussions by the Advisory Committee that there was a strong preference in professional counselors receiving supervision by clinical professional counselors, the Board recently discussed whether to roll back the statute requiring Board-approved supervisors, if this was causing an issue with individuals being able to find available supervision from professional counselors. Advisory Committee members asked if there was any data on why some individuals were not pursuing becoming a Board-approved supervisor and noted support for collecting information on that topic. Advisory Committee members who had gone through the Board-approved training expressed value in what they had learned from the trainings. Advisory Committee members expressed alternatives to the current requirements, such as taking a supervision examination and being able to demonstrate understanding, rather than mandatory training. It was also noted that certain programs already include the supervision training. It was also noted that, due to the permanent status of the LPC license, some individuals may not be seeking clinical supervision if they do not want to attain a LCPC license.
- C. Discussion of Questionnaire for Professional Counseling.** The Executive Director noted the BSRB previously assisted the Social Work Advisory Committee with surveying licensees and the report from a recent survey was shared with the Advisory Committee. The Executive Director reviewed the types of question included in the survey and noted the BSRB would be able to assist each of the Advisory Committees in creating a similar survey for licensees in the other professions. Advisory Committee members expressed support for a survey. Possible practice-related questions from members included: (1) demographic questions, including number of years of practice (range of years); (2) a question on supervision and what may be preventing some individuals from becoming supervisors; (3) the number of licensees interested in practicing under the multi-state compact when the Compact becomes operational; (4) issues practitioners have noticed, including areas where it appears licensees are needing more

continuing education or other trainings; and (5) a final open-ended question for any additional comments survey responders would like to provide to the BSRB. Advisory Committee members expressed support for a short message informing licensees why the survey was being conducted, how the information would be used, and the estimated length of time to complete the survey. It was noted that it may be helpful to know how many Board-approved supervisors were still interested in providing supervision.

D. Review of K.A.R. 102-3-3a Educational Requirements for Licensure and Consideration of Possible Changes. The Executive Director noted that each of the Advisory Committees has been asked to review the educational requirements for licensure, especially for applicants who received their education from non-accredited schools. It was noted that the BSRB was seeking to gather information on license requirements in other states and the Executive Director started a conversation with representatives from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) to compare the educational requirement in Kansas to other states. The BSRB will gather relevant information and provide it back to the Advisory Committee for further discussion at a future meeting. The Executive Director noted that proposed changes to K.A.R. 102-3-3a were close to becoming effective and there may be small changes in the final version of the regulations, as the agency is considering adding additional language to address comments and concerns from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations.

E. Additional Topics for 2024. The Executive Director noted the Legislature is seeking to explore pathways on helping more students enter the mental health fields. The Board created a new student temporary license for addiction counseling in 2023, and the Advisory Committee expressed support for considering whether a similar license could be created for the professional counseling profession. Advisory Committee members noted certain interns have been engaging in private practice and charging for services, and wished to explore this topic in more detail. Advisory Committee members noted the value in learning the impact of training being moved from in-person to mostly online what impact that has had on the professional counseling field, quality of care, and number of candidates for licensure.

VII. Next Meeting. Monday, June 3, 2024, at 10 a.m.

VIII. Adjournment. Michael Countryman moved to adjourn. Vanessa Perez seconded. The motion passed.