

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 5, 2025**

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, Samantha Holloway, Bob Kircher, Mahsa Maghsoudi, Vanessa Perez, Andrew Secor, Edil Torres Rivera, and Amanda Wade. Michael Countryman was absent.

BSRB Staff: David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, was present by Zoom.

- II. Agenda Approval.** Harriet Bachner moved to approve the agenda. Bob Kircher seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- III. 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. The Executive Director encouraged Advisory Committee members to begin utilizing free services under CE Broker, if they had not already done so. The Executive Director collected feedback from members of the Advisory Committee on individual experiences using CE Broker. The Executive Director clarified that if individuals hold multiple licenses under the BSRB, they will need to activate separate accounts for each license they hold. The Executive Director also provided an update on the BSRB progress in transitioning to a new licensing system under the state’s enterprise licensing system through Accela.
- IV. Updates on Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact.** The Chair of the Advisory Committee, who serves as Compact Commissioner for Kansas, provided updates on the Multi-State Compact. Per information from the Executive Director of the Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact, testing is being done on the Multi-State Compact data-system which will process and track individuals with multi-state Compact privileges to practice in different states. The plan is for the Professional Counselor Multi-State Compact to go live sometime this fall or winter. Members of the Advisory Committee asked if there was public information on the amount of the privilege fees in other states. The Executive Director noted that he has heard the range of privilege fees for the majority of states will be between \$20 to \$35, though at least a few states are planning to charge a privilege fee close to or the same amount as their license fee, due to concerns about losing revenue from out-of-state licensees choosing to practice with a privilege, rather than a license. The Chair of the Advisory Committee offered to collect more information on the range of privilege fees from other states and report back to the Advisory Committee.

V. Old Business

- A. Continued Discussion on Regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI).** The Executive Director updated the members of the Advisory Committee on a forum he attended that was hosted by the Information Network of Kansas (INK). At the forum, representatives of INK spoke about possible future AI tools for agencies, such as interactive chatbots. The Executive Director noted an appropriations bill at the federal level that currently includes a prohibition on states' ability to regulate artificial intelligence. The bill has not passed at this time, so the Executive Director will continue to track the legislation and report back to the Advisory Committee.
- B. Continued Review and Discussion on Survey of Licensees.** At the last meeting, the Executive Director summarized results from the draft survey report on professional counselors. Advisory Committee members discussed reflections on the report, including that respondents noted the need for more guidelines on telehealth. For the next meeting, Advisory Committee members were asked to review two sections of the draft survey report to be ready to discuss at the August Advisory Committee meeting: (1) negative practice-related issues licensees have observed and (2) negative issues licensees have observed with supervision. The Executive Director thanked members of his staff, Tyla and Emma, for their work analyzing and summarizing information for the draft report.
- C. Discussion of Supervision Manual for Professional Counseling.** The Executive Director noted the social work and marriage and family therapy Advisory Committees previously created supervision manuals to assist supervisors and licensees receiving supervision. The Executive Director asked if there was interest from members of the Professional Counseling Advisory Committee in creating a similar manual for professional counseling licensees. Amanda Wade, Vanessa Perz, Mahsa Maghsoudi, and Laura Shaughnessy volunteered to serve on a subcommittee for this purpose. It was noted that members departing the Advisory Committee could assist in an unofficial capacity, if they wished to do so. The next step in the process would be to request approval from the Board to create a subcommittee for this purpose, then after the Board authorizes the Subcommittee, Subcommittee members could be polled on their availability to begin meeting for the creation of the Supervision Manual.

VI. New Business

- A. Discussion on Recommendations on Advisory Committee members.** The Executive Director noted 22 individuals applied for consideration of being added to the Advisory Committee and reviewed the language in the Advisory Committee policy regarding making recommendations on new members. After discussion, the Advisory Committee recommended adding three new members: Amanda Brown, Jason Li, and Amanda Petrik-Gardner. The Executive Director will inform the Chair of the Board, who will speak to the Chair of the Advisory Committee if he has any questions.
- B. Discussion on Alternative Pathways to Licensure.** The Executive Director noted that the Chair of the Board brought up the topic of alternative pathways to licensure that do not include passage of a licensing examination and asked each of

the Advisory Committees to discuss this topic and determine whether they would like to make recommendations back to the Board on this topic. Advisory Committee members expressed concerns that individuals who did not pass a standardized examination might be unable to provide quality services, which would be contrary to the public protection mission of the Board. The Executive Director noted he would collect information on how other states have approached this topic and asked Advisory Committee members to be ready to discuss this topic in more detail at a future meeting.

- C. **Discussion on Jurisprudence Live!** The Executive Director noted some states require passage of a state-specific jurisprudence examination to ensure that new licensees are aware of state-specific law. Kansas does not currently require passage of a jurisprudence examination, though the Board has considered this topic over the past few years. The Executive Director proposed a solution to this topic that would involve the BSRB offering a series of free webinars for continuing education credit, one for each profession regulated by the BSRB, covering the topics that a jurisprudence examination would cover. The Board was supportive of this approach, and the agency is close to launching this initiative, so the Executive Director asked if a few members of the Advisory Committee would be interested in volunteering in an unofficial capacity to assist with language for questions for the jurisprudence webinars. Advisory Committees who volunteered for this project included: Melissa Briggs, Samantha Holloway, and Amanda Wade. The Executive Director will inform these volunteers next steps when the questions are ready to be reviewed.

VII. Recognition of Departing Advisory Committee Members. The Advisory Committee thanked departing members Harriett Bachner, Bob Kircher, Andrew Secor, and Edil Torres-Rivera for their service on the Advisory Committee.

VIII. Next Meeting: August 4, 2025. The next Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, August 4, 2025, at 10am (remote meeting).

IX. Adjournment. Vanessa Perez moved to adjourn. Andrew Secor seconded. The motion passed.