

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2025**

Approved 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, Nicole Eitzen, Chris Habben, Diane Seibel, and Heidi Vela. Jim Kilmartin, Betsy Henderson, and Marcie Lechtenberg were absent.
Staff. BSRB staff present by Zoom was David Fye.
- II. Approval of Agenda.** Nicole Eitzen moved to approve the agenda. Chris Habben seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on June 13, 2025.** Heidi Vela moved to approve the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting on June 13, 2025. Diane Seibel 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, legislative updates, and actions from recent Board meetings.
- V. Old Business**

 - A. Continued Review and Discussion of Survey Report on Licensees.** At the previous meeting, the Executive Director asked Advisory Committee members to specifically review and be ready to discuss two survey questions: (1) a question on practice-related negative issues or areas where practitioners were seeing a need for more education or training and (2) a question on negative issues observed by practitioners in the area of supervision. Advisory Committee members discussed the summary information in the draft report as well as the open-field answers from licensees. Advisory Committee members noted the evolution of artificial intelligence, including the use of chatbots to provide mental health services, and expressed a desire to begin working on possible language for a solution to current problems. Members also discussed the need for good supervision, the need to protect against client exploitation, and basic legal training for practitioners. Advisory Committees expressed concern for comments that noted recent graduates appeared under-prepared. Some Advisory Committee members questioned the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on new practitioners, as they may have been limited in the type or format of training they received during that time. Advisory Committee members noted concern about available training for supervisors and may consider future discussions on broadening the types of training that would qualify. For the next meeting, the Executive Director asked members of the Advisory Committee to review and be ready to discuss two questions: (1) a question on any negative issues observed

in the area of telehealth and (2) a question on the use of artificial intelligence by practitioners.

- B. Continuing Discussion on the Regulation of Artificial Intelligence.** The Executive Director provided an update on federal legislation. It was noted the federal appropriations bill previously included language that would have prevented states from regulating artificial intelligence for 10 years, however this language was removed from the final version of the bill prior to passage. The Advisory Committee will discuss this topic in more detail, after discussing licensees' responses to the survey question on artificial intelligence at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Recommendations on New Advisory Committee Members.** Members of the Advisory Committee discussed applicants for the Committee. The Advisory Committee recommended adding Stacey Hodges and Raneisha Hunter to the Advisory Committee. The Executive Director noted their names will be provided to the Chair of the Board for consideration.
- B. Discussion on Alternate Pathways for Licensure.** The Executive Director noted that the Chair of the Board asked each Advisory Committee to discuss this topic, specifically as it could relate to a pathway for licensure that would not include passing a licensing examination. The Executive Director noted he would gather information from other states and provide it back to the Advisory Committee for review at a future meeting.

VII. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be October 10, 2025, at 10am.

- A. Annual Training for Board and Advisory Committee Members.** The Executive Director noted the BSRB provides an annual one-hour training for Board members and Advisory Committee members that covers relevant topics, such as the Kansas Open Meetings Act, Kansas Open Records Act, and other requirements or expectations for members. This fall, the Executive Director will send out four date and time options and will ask all Board and Advisory Committee members to sign up for one of the four timeslots.
- B. Review of Regulations.** The Executive Director provided a copy of nine regulations for the Advisory Committee to review prior to the October 2025 meeting. The Executive Director noted several regulations have been reviewed by the Advisory Committees over the past few years, such as unprofessional conduct, continuing education, documentation of continuing education, definitions, educational requirements for licensure, supervision, and other topics. However, there are a handful of other short regulations that have not been reviewed by the Advisory Committees lately. The Executive Director noted the goal of having all regulations reviewed by the Advisory Committees, though some regulations may not require updates or changes. The Executive Director noted BSRB staff will review the regulations and bring recommended changes to the next meeting, but asked Advisory Committee members to review the regulations as well and bring any questions or suggested changes.

VIII. Adjournment. Christ Habben moved to adjourn the meeting. Heidi Vela seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.