

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2026
DRAFT 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, Melissa Briggs, Amanda Brown, Michael Countryman, Samantha Holloway, Jason Li, Vanessa Perez, Amanda Petrik-Gardner, and Amanda Wade. Jim Kilmartin and Mahsa Maghsoudi were absent.

BSRB Staff: David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, and Leslie Allen, Assistant Director, were present by Zoom.

- II. Agenda Approval.** Michael Countryman moved to approve the agenda. Amanda Wade seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings on December 4, 2025.** Amanda Petrik-Gardner moved to approve the minutes from December 4, 2025. Vanessa Perez seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. Executive Director’s Report.** The Executive Director provided updates on agency operations, legislative updates, and actions from recent Board meetings.
- V. Preview of 2026 Annual Meeting of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB).** The Executive Director provided a preview of different topics that will be discussed at the upcoming AASCB meeting. This year they will be meeting February 22–24, 2026.
- VI. Updates on Professional Counseling Multi-State Compact.** The Executive Director and Chair of the Committee discussed several updates with the multi-state compact.
- VII. Old Business**
- A. Continued Review and Discussion on Survey of Licensees.** The Advisory Committee discussed different ways to inform licensees of information. Once the final report is complete, the Board will send out an email to licensees to notify licensees where it can be found on the BSRB website.
- B. Continued Discussion on Regulation of Artificial Intelligence.** The Executive Director provided a document at the previous meeting summarizing different bills enacted by three states that involved regulation of the use of artificial intelligence. The Executive Director informed the Committee what the consensus of the other committees discussed. One of the main topics involves confidentiality. The Committee believes that the client should have the right to opt out of the use of AI during their sessions. The Advisory Committee was in consensus to bring the

following topics to the Board for review: informed consent and what specifically it is being used for in terms of client care, giving the option for clients to opt out of the use of AI, and making sure the confidentiality of the client is protected.

VIII. New Business

A. Discussion on Coursework Requirements in K.A.R. 102-3-3a. The Executive Director and Assistant Director reviewed the current regulation with Advisory Committee members. Specifically, it was noted that applicants who received their education from CACREP accredited programs still need to meet certain coursework requirements in the regulation, while other professions are moving away from this approach and granting greater latitude to having attended an accredited program. A different approach would be to have a requirement of the specific coursework for individuals who received their education from a non-accredited program, to establish substantial equivalence. If this was pursued, staff could license individuals more quickly by not having to review every course on the transcripts if an applicant attended a CACREP accredited school. By consensus, the Advisory Committee recommended this proposal and recommended it be forwarded to the BSRB Board for consideration.

B. Discussion on Advisory Committee Discussion Topics for 2026. The Advisory Committee discussed what they would like to accomplish during this year's meetings. Some topics include increasing communication between the Board and licensees regarding any changes, simplifying training plans, and the continued discussion on AI and the professional counseling multi-state compact.

IX. Next Meeting: The next Advisory Committee meeting was scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2026, at 10am (remote meeting).

X. Adjournment. Michael Countryman moved to adjourn. Amanda Brown seconded. The motion passed.