

NC Addictions Specialist Professional Practice Board
January 26, 2024
Raleigh / Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Kendra Davis, Stephanie Robinson, Johnny Bass, Flo Stein, Anita Daniels, Kathy Allen, Glenn Buck, Mike McGuire, and Nyi Myint

Staff: Catherine Lee, Grant Simpsons, Lynn Bodenheimer, Barden Culbreth, Donna Strickland, Randolph Cloud

Public: Linda Alves

Call to Order: Chair Kendra Davis and Vice Chair Stephanie Robinson called the meeting to order, and the Board members were asked to introduce themselves.

Ethics Awareness Statement: Kendra read the Ethics Awareness Statement and asked the Board members for any potential conflicts of interest with the business before the Board today. Ethics Committee members and QA Committee members noted that they would not participate in any matters originating from their respective committees. Mike McGuire noted that he was abstaining from participating in the Hearings.

Public Comment: Linda Alves was recognized. She is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC). She stated she was given an LCAS-Associate, but then her application was reviewed a second time, and that status was removed. She spoke about her experience in the field and her education. Upon questions from the Board, she confirmed that she doesn't have a completed master's degree that qualifies for the LCAS.

Kendra motioned to send the degree to the Standards Committee. Kathy seconded and the matter was referred to Standards.

Approval of the Agenda: Kathy motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Flo seconded and the agenda was approved.

Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes: Kathy motioned to approve the minutes, with an amendment to clarify member remarks from the previous meeting. The amendment was accepted without objection. Stephanie seconded the motion to approve the amendment. The motion carried.

Financial Report: Barden walked through the quarterly financial report. Kathy made a motion to approve the report. Anita seconded and the motion was approved. Kendra and Johnny discussed in bond performance.

Government Policy Report: Randolph was recognized and asked providers to speak on their experiences with expanded Medicaid implementation. Glenn spoke about how his agency was implementing care for new clients. Randolph spoke about the upcoming Legislative Breakfast on Mental Health. Anita noted it was sold out and many people she knew were looking for tickets. Randolph reported on the reconvening of the NC General Assembly.

Mike McGuire left the meeting.

Hearings:

Jones – After a hearing, there was a motion by Kathy Allen motioned to return to open session. Johnny seconded, and the motion carried.

Kendra motioned to accept the Standard's Committee determination of denial of Ms. Jones' degree being eligible for LCAS. Johnny seconded and the motion carried, with Flo and Stephanie recusing.

Carswell – Catherine Lee was recognized and presented the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) recommendation for revocation. Board counsel noted that Carswell asked for a continuance. Stephanie motioned to deny the continuance request. Kendra seconded, and the motion carried.

The Board then considered the recommendation from the ALJ. The Board's counsel, Grant Simpkins, was recognized and presented the recommendation.

Nyi Myint left the meeting.

Johnny motioned to accept the revocation recommendation. Kendra seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair Report: Kendra thanked everyone for their support of her chairwomanship and welcomed any questions and guidance moving forward.

Mike McGuire rejoined the meeting.

Board office Report: Barden and Donna presented a proposed Training Policy for the Board. Many of the training standards were already accepted practice, however one item for discussion was a proposal to limit approved trainings for initial licensure or certification to five (5) years or ten (10) years. Discussion followed. Barden advised that ten years is standing practice in the office, however if the Board wants to limit it to 5 years, then they should do so through the Rule Making Process. After discussion, a committee was agreed to be the best option to determine the next steps.

Committee Reports:

Standards Committee – Stephanie Robinson is the new chair of standards, and Mike presented his report. They have done many reviews of the Criteria C programs. All have had some deficiencies, some more serious than others; and most are a result of the passage of time and the drift of curricula with the consent of the Board. The committee is working with the schools to correct these deficiencies.

Quality Assurance Committee – Anita reported on cases that they reviewed. Many of these people are Certified Peer Support Specialists (CPSS) who were applying to become CADC. Flo reported that she could help connect the Board with people in charge of the CPSS certification to help review and further develop and define the career path from CPSS to the clinical status of the CADC.

Ethics Committee – Kenda presented on behalf of the Ethics Committee, which continues to investigate complaints against professionals, and meets monthly to review investigation reports.

Unfinished Business: None. Kendra asked if there had been any movement on Impaired Professionals. Mike reported that there had not been any movement.

New Business: Kathy asked to be recognized and asked if the Board could adopt a policy or Rule requiring a certain number of years of sobriety and recovery. She reported that the CPSS had a similar policy. She also asked about linking the rule to wait periods after incarceration or probation release.

Catherine reported that the General Assembly has removed many specific barrier timelines after incarceration and asked that all applicants be considered individually. A rule about sobriety and recovery would be reviewed further.

Barden reported that the office typically recommends 1 year of recovery prior to seeking licensure or certification. Glenn reported how difficult it is to be an advocate for recovery and simultaneously advise potential applicants to wait further before applying for credentialing. Stephanie reported on how some counties were funding CPSS certification. Kathy asked about the cooling off period for moving from residency to treatment.

More discussion followed.

Adjourn: Kathy motioned to adjourn, and the meeting ended.