



STATE OF ARIZONA
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

HEIDI HERBST PAAKKONEN
Executive Director

Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

May 18, 2022

Held via Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners Complaint Screening Committee was called to order by Madame Chair Shreeve at 8:31 a.m. on May 18, 2022. Two executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Tamara Shreeve, MPA – Chair
Diana Davis-Wilson, DBH, BCBA
Ramona N. Mellott, Ph.D.

Attorney General's Office

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen, Executive Director
Jennifer Michaelson, Deputy Director

3. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Michelle Ellis, Ph.D., Complaint No. 22-19

Dr. Davis-Wilson summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Ellis and her attorney, Robin Burgess, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Davis-Wilson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Michelle Ellis, Ph.D., Complaint No. 22-22

Ms. Shreeve summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Ellis and her attorney, Robin Burgess, were present.

At 8:49 a.m., Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to go into Executive Session to review confidential information/records from Dr. Ellis and for legal advice if needed. Open

session reconvened at 9:00 a.m.

After deliberation, Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

c. Byrl Crago, Psy.D., Complaint No. 22-23

Dr. Mellott summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records, noting that Board staff opened a complaint for further investigation against Dr. Crago after receiving a referral from the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners, indicating that board issued a Decree of Censure to one of their licensed master social workers for providing psychotherapy without a license for a period of time at Dr. Crago's private practice prior to obtaining licensure. Dr. Crago and his attorney, Faren Akins, Ph.D., Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

At 9:15 a.m., Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to go into Executive Session to receive confidential legal advice. Open session reconvened at 9:28 a.m.

The Committee expressed concern that Dr. Crago allowed an unlicensed social worker to provide therapy at his practice and billed for such services. The Committee noted that Dr. Crago did not do his due diligence to verify if it was appropriate to supervise the social worker and to allow her to work at his practice under his license and supervision.

Dr. Mellott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shreeve, to forward Complaint No. 22-23 to the Board for a possible violation of A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(dd), violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as it pertains to section 3.04 (Avoiding Harm) of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct, and to recommend to the Board that a non-disciplinary Letter of Concern be issued to Dr. Crago. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

The Committee took a comfort break at 9:35 a.m. and resumed at 9:45 a.m.

d. David Weinstock, Ph.D., Complaint No. 22-17

Dr. Mellott summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant and her attorney, Kip Micuda, Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Weinstock and his attorney, Larry Cohen, Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Mellott made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davis-Wilson, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried 2-1 by a voice vote, with Ms. Shreeve opposed.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Davis-Wilson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.