



STATE OF ARIZONA
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KATIE HOBBS
Governor

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Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

February 22, 2023

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 8:32 a.m. on February 22, 2023. No executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Tamara Shreeve, MPA – Chair
Diana Medina, Ph.D.
Joseph Stewart, Ed.D.

Attorney General's Office

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present

Heidi Paakkonen, Executive Director
Jennifer Michaelson, Deputy Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **January 25, 2023 Regular Session and Executive Session Minutes**

Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Andrew Bernstein, Ph.D., Complaint No. 23-16

Dr. Stewart summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Bernstein and his attorney, Faren Akins, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to dismiss this case, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Todd Linaman, Ph.D., Complaint No. 23-24

Dr. Stewart summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Linaman and his attorney, Jeffrey Hunter, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to dismiss this case, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

c. Sarah Edmonds, Ph.D., Complaint No. 23-26

Ms. Shreeve summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records, noting that multiple individuals filed a complaint regarding the same issue related to Dr. Edmonds' Twitter posts. Two complainants addressed the Committee and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Edmonds and her attorney, Jeffrey Hunter, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shreeve, to dismiss this case, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried (2-1) by a voice vote, with Dr. Medina opposed.

d. Paul Meyer, Psy.D., Complaint No. 23-13

Dr. Medina summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Meyer was not present.

The Committee expressed concern that Dr. Meyer wrote approximately twenty letters for individuals in which he recommended they have an Emotional Support Animal (ESA) and that the content of these letters were almost identical in nature. Furthermore, Dr. Meyer's evaluation process for making such determinations if an individual qualifies for an ESA is not known at this time.

Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to forward Complaint No. 23-13 to the Board for further review regarding possible violations of A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(g), engaging or offering to engage as a psychologist in activities that are not congruent with the psychologist's professional education, training and experience. The motion also included directing Board staff to issue a subpoena to Dr. Meyer for his attendance at the Board meeting when this matter is reviewed to provide testimony and to provide additional information that the Committee has requested. The Committee noted that staff will issue a subpoena for ten patient records from Dr. Meyer, which will be randomly selected staff and that the Complainant will submit unredacted copies of the letters with the patient names displayed, so that staff can complete this directive. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Medina made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.