



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGIST EXAMINERS
1740 WEST ADAMS STREET, SUITE 3403
PHOENIX, AZ 85007
PH: 602.542.8162 FX: 602.542.8279
WEBSITE: WWW.PSYCHBOARD.AZ.GOV

KATIE HOBBS
Governor

HEIDI HERBST PAAKKONEN
Executive Director

Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

June 14, 2023

Held by Zoom

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners Complaint Screening Committee was called to order by Chairman Dynar at 8:33 a.m. on June 14, 2023. No executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Aditya Dynar, Esq. – Chair
Linda Caterino, Ph.D., ABPP
Joseph Stewart, Ed.D.

Attorney General's Office

Elizabeth Campbell, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present

Heidi Paakkonen, Executive Director
Jennifer Michaelson, Deputy Director

3. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Traivs Munnerlyn-Kirkham, Psy.D., Complaint No. 23-40

Dr. Caterino 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. Munnerlyn and his attorney, Robin Burgess, participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. After deliberation, Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Caterino, to dismiss this case, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Carlos Vega, Psy.D., Complaint No. 23-41

Dr. Stewart 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. Vega was not present.

The Committee expressed concern regarding the psychological evaluation that Dr. Vega completed for a parent based on a referral from the Arizona Department of Child Safety (“DCS”). The record reflects that Dr. Vega listed a diagnosis for the other parent in his evaluation report despite never having met the parent, nor was there any information in the referral information he received from DCS that cited a specific diagnosis. The Committee was also concerned that Dr. Vega did not attend the meeting, as there were several questions for him relative to the evaluation that he completed.

Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Caterino, to forward Complaint No. 23-41 to the Board for further review regarding possible violations of A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(o), providing services that are unnecessary or unsafe or otherwise engaging in activities as a psychologist that are unprofessional by current standards of practice; and A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(dd), violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as it pertains to sections 2.04 (Bases for Scientific and Professional Judgements), 9.01 (Bases for Assessments), and 9.03 (Informed Consent in Assessments) of the American Psychological Association’s Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. The motion also included directing Board staff to issue a subpoena to Dr. Vega for his attendance at the Board meeting when this matter is reviewed to provide testimony. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.