



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

March 20, 2024

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 8:31 a.m. on March 20, 2024. Three executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Aditya Dynar, Esq. – 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

a. December 13, 2023 Regular Session Minutes

Mr. Dynar recused from this item. Dr. Stewart, made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), by a voice vote.

b. January 24, 2024 Regular Session and Executive Session Minutes

Dr. Medina recused from this item. Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to approve the minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), by a voice vote.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Kelly Rodriguez, Psy.D., Complaint No. 23-58

Dr. Stewart summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Rodriguez and her attorney, Mandi Karvis,

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. Ronald Lavit, Ph.D., Complaint No. 24-14

Mr. Dynar recused from this case. He left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Dr. Stewart summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Lavit and his attorney, Cynthia Patane, participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

At 10:45 a.m., Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to go into Executive Session to receive confidential legal advice. Open session resumed at 10:52 a.m.

Upon resuming in open session, the Committee asked Dr. Lavit additional questions. 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 (2-0), by a voice vote.

c. Nicole Wolf, Ph.D., Complaint No. 24-19

Mr. Dynar summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant participated and made a statement. Dr. Wolf participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

At 9:30 a.m., Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to go into Executive Session to receive confidential legal advice. Open session resumed at 9:42 a.m.

Upon resuming in open session, the Committee deliberated the case. Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dynar, to dismiss this case, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

The Committee took a break at 9:52 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

d. Nicole Huggins, Psy.D., Complaint No. 24-11

Dr. Medina summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Huggins was not present.

Dr. Medina made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to forward the complaint to the Board for further review regarding potential violations of A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(c), making or using statements of a character tending to deceive or mislead; A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(e), gross negligence in the practice of a psychologist; and A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(h), failing or refusing to maintain and retain adequate business, financial or professional records pertaining to the psychological services provided to a client or patient.

The motion included a recommendation to the Board that it issue an Interim Order requiring the licensee to undergo a fitness for duty evaluation. The Committee directed Board staff to issue a subpoena to Dr. Huggins for her attendance at the Board meeting when this matter is reviewed. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

e. Nicole Huggins, Psy.D., Complaint No. 24-15

Dr. Medina summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative

record. The Complainant participated and made a statement. Dr. Huggins was not present.

At 10:18 a.m., Dr. Stewart made a motion, seconded by Dr. Medina, to go into Executive Session to receive confidential legal advice. Open session resumed at 10:30 a.m.

Upon resuming in open session, the Committee deliberated the case. Dr. Medina made a motion, seconded by Dr. Stewart, to forward the complaint to the Board for further review regarding a potential violation of A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(bb), failing to furnish information in a timely manner to the board or its investigators or representatives if requested or subpoenaed by the board as prescribed by this chapter.

The Committee discussed that Board staff will contact Dr. Huggins regarding a proposed consent agreement for the voluntary surrender of her psychologist license as a possible resolution in this matter. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Medina announced the adjournment of the meeting at 10:57 a.m.