



STATE OF ARIZONA
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Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

July 17, 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 Wynn at 8:31 a.m. on July 17, 2024. One executive session was held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Todd Wynn, M.A. – 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. May 22, 2024 Regular Session Minutes

Mr. Wynn 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.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Complaint No. 24-30, Susan Schwartz, Ph.D.

Dr. Medina summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant was present with her attorney, Elliot Alford, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Schwartz was present with her attorney, Robert Beardsley, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

At 8:52 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 9:13 a.m.

Upon resuming in open session, the Committee asked additional questions of both parties.

The Committee discussed that the Board does not have jurisdiction to review certain allegations of the complaint pursuant to the 4-year time limit articulated in A.R.S. § 32-3224.

After deliberation, 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)(b), betraying professional confidences;
- A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(e), gross negligence in the practice of a psychologist;
- A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(g), engaging or offering to engage as a psychologist in activities not congruent with the psychologist's professional education, training and experience;
- 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;
- A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(r), failing to obtain a client's or patient's informed and written consent to release personal or otherwise confidential information to another party unless the release is otherwise authorized by law;
- A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(y), exploiting a client or patient, student or a supervisee;
- A.R.S. § 32-2061(16)(dd), violating an ethical standard adopted by the Board as it pertains to section 6.01 (Documentation of Professional and Scientific Work and Maintenance of Records) of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct.

The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Complaint No. 24-31, Alicia Abby Garcia, Ph.D.

Dr. Stewart summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record. The Complainant was not present. Dr. Garcia was present with her attorney, Sara Stark, 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.

The Committee took a comfort break at 9:53 a.m. and resumed the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

c. Complaint No. T-24-02, Ronnie Manns

Dr. Medina summarized the case, including salient information contained in the investigative record, noting that a complaint was opened by Board staff after receiving information that Mr. Manns was allegedly holding himself out as a psychologist/neuropsychologist and providing psychological services in Arizona. Mr. Manns was not present despite notification of the meeting.

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. § 32-2084. The motion included a recommendation to the Board that it issue a Cease and Desist Order to Mr. Manns, make a referral to the Arizona State Board of Nursing regarding the subject's use of the "NP" title, and refer this case to the Arizona Attorney General's Office for possible investigation and prosecution. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Wynn announced the adjournment of the meeting at 10:08 a.m.