



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

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

HEIDI HERBST PAAKKONEN
Executive Director

Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

April 21, 2021

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 8:30 a.m. on April 21, 2021. Two executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Tamara Shreeve, MPA – Chair
Stephen Gill, Ph.D.
Matthew A. Meier, Psy.D.

Attorney General's Office

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen, Executive Director
Jennifer Michaelsen, Deputy Director

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 24, 2021 Regular Session
- March 24, 2021 Executive Session

Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to approve the March 24, 2021 regular session and executive session minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Vaughn Tsoutsouris, Psy.D., Complaint No. 21-12

Dr. Meier summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee.

At 8:51 a.m., Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to go into Executive Session to review confidential records and information. Open session reconvened at 8:57 a.m.

Upon reconvening in open session, the Committee asked the Complainant additional questions.

The Licensee and his attorney, Faren Akins, Ph.D., Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee took a comfort break at 9:12 a.m. and resumed at 9:22 a.m.

Upon reconvening from the break, the Committee asked the Licensee additional questions.

The Committee expressed concern regarding several aspects of the case to include: various recordkeeping issues such as a lack of informed consent for electronic communications and lack of documentation addressing ethical challenges that occurred throughout treatment; lack of a clear policy regarding the electronic communications outside of session which appeared to create a boundary issue; personal disclosures made Dr. Tsoutsouris during treatment; and failure to consult early on when ethical challenges and issues arose in treatment.

Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to forward Complaint 21-12 to the Board for possible violations of 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)(k), violating any federal or state laws or rules that relate to the practice of psychology or to obtaining a license to practice psychology as it relates to R4-26-109, General Provisions Regarding Telepractice, and R4-26-110, Providing Psychological Service by Telepractice; and 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. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Karol Basel, Complaint No. T-21-01

Dr. Gill summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The complaint was filed anonymously. The Respondent participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee. Respondent's supervisor at Sunlight Center for Change LLC, Dr. Holly Joubert, Psy.D., was also present, made a brief statement. and answered questions from the Committee.

At 10:10 a.m., Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to go into Executive Session to confidential receive legal advice. Open session reconvened at 10:21 a.m.

Upon reconvening in open session, the Committee asked the Respondent additional questions.

The Committee expressed concern that, based on the representations made by Ms. Basel at today's meeting, she may be providing psychological testing and services at Sunlight Center for Change outside of the exemption for school psychologists permitted by A.R.S. § 32-2075(A)(1).

After deliberation, Ms. Shreeve made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to forward Complaint T-21-01 to the Board for potential violations of A.R.S. § 32-2084(A), for possibly practicing psychology without a license; and A.R.S. § 32-2075(A)(1), for possibly practicing outside of the license exemption for school psychologists. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

The Committee directed Board staff to issue a subpoena to Ms. Basel and Dr. Joubert for a complete list of clients seen by Ms. Basel in the past year at Sunlight Center for Change. Upon receiving this list, Board staff will randomly select five client records to subpoena and these records will be reviewed by the Board at a future meeting.

5. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Meier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.