



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

May 13, 2020

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 8:35 a.m. on May 13, 2020.

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

- April 15, 2020, Regular Session and Executive Session Minutes

Dr. Meier recused from this item. Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Ms. Shreeve, to approve the April 15, 2020, regular session and executive session minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), by a voice vote.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Lisa Galper, Ph.D., Complaint No. 20-27

Dr. Meier summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant and her attorney, Larry Cohen, Esq., participated, made a statement and answered questions from the Committee. The Licensee and her attorney, Jeffrey Hunter, Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee expressed concern with regards to several issues to include inappropriate text communications with the client; blaming the client and using the client's diagnosis to defend the licensee's action; lack of clarity to distinguish when coaching was provided versus psychotherapy; overall inadequacy in the clinical documentation; the consent form for group therapy does not address limits of confidentiality; the consent form for individual therapy does not discuss boundaries; billing issues; and Dr. Galper did not submit her text communications with the client as it was not included in the clinical record.

Dr. Meier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to forward Complaint 20-27 to the Board for possible violations of A.R.S. § 32-2061(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)(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 3.04 (Avoiding Harm) and 3.10 (Informed Consent) 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. Scott Padilla, Psy.D., Complaint No. 20-41

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. The Licensee participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee discussed that Dr. Padilla's license is currently on probation for a prior complaint where he engaged in an inappropriate relationship with a former female client. The Committee expressed concern that there is now a second complaint against Dr. Padilla with similar allegations, for which Dr. Padilla acknowledges having engaged in an inappropriate, personal relationship with this female client.

Dr. Meier inquired with Dr. Padilla if there are other clients with whom Dr. Padilla had a similar, inappropriate relationship. Dr. Padilla replied that these are the only two clients that he can think of. Dr. Meier subsequently asked Dr. Padilla if he had contact with any other clients outside of therapy. Dr. Padilla indicated there have been instances where a former client sent him a thank you text message or something similar, but that he has not had any sustained or frequent communication with any other clients and is not in contact with any former clients currently.

Dr. Meier made a motion to forward Complaint 20-41 to the Board for possible violations of A.R.S. § 32-2061(e), gross negligence in the practice of a psychologist; A.R.S. § 32-2061(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)(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 section 3.05 (Multiple Relationships) of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct. Dr. Gill agreed to second the motion with a friendly amendment of a possible violation as it relates to A.R.S. §32-2061(16)(dd) by adding sections 3.04 (Avoiding Harm) and 3.08 (Exploitative Relationships). Dr. Meier accepted the amended motion. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.