



STATE OF ARIZONA
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Executive Director

Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

August 19, 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 Chairman Dynar at 8:30 a.m. on August 19, 2020. One executive session was held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Aditya Dynar, Esq. – Chair
Bryan Davey, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Stephen Gill, Ph.D.

Attorney General's Office

Jeanne Galvin, Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present

Heidi Herbst Paakkonen, Executive Director
Jennifer Michaelsen, Deputy Director

3. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Elizabeth Capps-Conkle, Psy.D., Complaint No. 20-44

Dr. Davey summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainants were not present despite being notified of the meeting. The Licensee and her attorney Mandi Karvis, Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

After deliberation, Dr. Davey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

b. Sharon Esonis, Ph.D., Complaint No. 20-48

Dr. Davey 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 Committee took a comfort break at 9:19 a.m. and resumed at 9:25 a.m.

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

At 9:31 a.m., Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davey, to go into Executive Session to discuss confidential records/information. Open session reconvened at 9:51 a.m.

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

After deliberation, Dr. Davey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to dismiss the complaint upon receipt of proof from Dr. Esonis that she has added a parenthetical to all applicable websites and documentation, clarifying that her Arizona psychologist license is currently inactive. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

c. Laura Falduto, Ph.D., Complaint No. 20-21

Dr. Gill 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 and her attorney, Mark Harrison, Esq., participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

After deliberation, Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Dr. Davey, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a voice vote.

d. Rebecca Blood, Ph.D., Complaint No. T-20-09

Mr. Dynar summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was not present despite being properly notified. The Respondent participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

After deliberation, Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Mr. Dynar, to refer to the case to the Board for further review. The motion failed on a roll call vote (1-2), with Dr. Davey and Mr. Dynar opposing.

Mr. Dynar made a motion, seconded by Dr. Dr. Davey, to dismiss this matter, as there are no violations of rule or statute. The motion carried unanimously (3-0), by a roll call vote.

e. Sonia Steen, Complaint No. T-20-10

Mr. Dynar summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was present but did not make a statement, and the Committee did not have any questions. The Respondent participated, made a statement, and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee expressed concern that Ms. Steen may possibly be holding herself out as a psychologist as she listed on the Instagram profile for her business that she was a “Counseling

Psychologist” and that she may be advertising, or providing, counseling and psychotherapy services.

After deliberation, Dr. Davey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to forward Complaint T-20-10 to the Board for further review with possible violations of A.R.S. § 32-2084(C)(1), for possible use of the designation "psychology", "psychological" or "psychologist" by a person not licensed pursuant to Chapter 32, Title 19 of the Arizona Revised Statutes; A.R.S. § 32-2084(C)(2), for possible use of any combination of words, initials and symbols that leads the public to believe the person is licensed to practice psychology in this state, by a person not licensed pursuant to Chapter 32, Title 19 of the Arizona Revised Statutes. The motion carried (2-1) on a roll call vote, with Mr. Dynar opposing.

4. ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. Davey made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried (3-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.