



STATE OF ARIZONA
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HEIDI HERBST PAAKKONEN
Executive Director

Complaint Screening Committee REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

September 15, 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 Laboy at 8:34 a.m. on September 15, 2021. No executive sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Present

Melanie Laboy, Esq. – 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 21, 2021 Regular Session
- April 21, 2021 Executive Session

Ms. Laboy recused from this item. Dr. Meier made a motion, seconded by Dr. Gill, to approve the April 21, 2021 regular session and executive session minutes as drafted. The motion carried unanimously (2-0), by a voice vote.

4. CASE DISCUSSION/DECISION

a. Gregory Novie, Ph.D., Complaint No. 21-27

Ms. Michaelsen notified the Committee that Dr. Novie was not present today despite being notified of the meeting in writing by email and mail and that those communications were sent more than one month in advance of the meeting date. She indicated that Board staff emailed and called Dr. Novie at the beginning of today's meeting but they have not yet received a response from him. It was the consensus of the Committee to proceed with the case review. Dr. Meier summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records. The Complainant was present and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee expressed concern with regard to several aspects of the two psychological evaluations that Dr. Novie completed for a mother and father who were referred by the Department of Child Safety (DCS), to include: the overall quality of the reports; lack of supporting information for the diagnosis stated in one of the reports; lack of extensive assessment regarding one parent who reported previous head trauma; the psychological testing fell below standard of practice and appeared to be conducted incorrectly; lack of written informed consent for the evaluations; and it appeared that not all pertinent information was provided to DCS by Dr. Novie.

After deliberation, Dr. Gill made a motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to forward Complaint No. 21-27 to the Board for further review regarding potential 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)(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 3.10 (Informed Consent) and 9.01 (Bases for Assessment) of the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct and to direct Board staff to issue Dr. Novie a subpoena for his appearance when the complaint is reviewed by the Board at a future meeting date. The motion carried 3-0.

b. Scott Padilla, Psy.D., Complaint No. T-22-01

Dr. Gill summarized the case, including salient points of the investigation and pertinent records, noting that a complaint was opened by Board staff for further investigation after they received correspondence in July of 2021 from a former client of Dr. Padilla. This former client indicated that she was recently contacted by another client (TB) on social media who reported that she was continuing to receive services from Dr. Padilla, but was unaware that he surrendered his psychologist license with the Board in 2020 until recently reviewing this information online.

TB was present, made a brief statement and answered questions from the Committee. Dr. Padilla was present, made a brief statement and answered questions from the Committee.

The Committee expressed concern that Dr. Padilla has continued to practice psychology in Arizona despite surrendering his psychologist license in November 2020. After deliberation, Dr. Gill motion, seconded by Dr. Meier, to forward Complaint T-22-01 to the Board for further review regarding a potential violation of A.R.S. § 32-2084. The motion carried unanimously

(3-0), by a voice vote.

5. 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 9:37 am.