



Board of Allied Mental Health Practitioners
Office of Professional Regulation, Vermont Secretary of State

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UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
VERMONT BOARD OF ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
DECEMBER 17, 2020 REMOTE MEETING

Present: Tammy Austin, Lynn Irwin, Carol Smith, and Shawn Waldron; Office of Professional Regulation Personnel: Diane Lafaille and Lauren Layman. Others: Hollis Easter.

1. General Business

- a. The Board called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.
- b. Mr. Waldron moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting as written. Approved.

2. 2020-42 – Barbara Handelman – A Stipulation and Consent Order was heard. Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Waldron, to accept the Stipulation and Consent Order as presented. Approved.

3. Applications

Ezzelle, William – Application by Endorsement from Texas – The Board has found that the qualifications for licensure as an licensed professional counselor in Texas are not substantially equivalent to those in Vermont, because Texas requires fewer pre-degree internship hours, fewer post-degree direct supervision hours, and only one examination. Therefore, the Board did not grant a license by endorsement to Mr. Ezzelle.

McNamer, Simone – Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Waldron, to preliminarily deny the application as the degree is missing a 3-credit graduate course in Diagnosis, Assessment and Treatment. Approved.

4. Other Business

- a. Further discussion regarding modifying the Rule requiring a 600-hour, pre-degree internship was tabled until the Board's January meeting.
- b. Attorney Layman shared updates to the OPR COVID-19 policy guidance for the mental health professions.

- c. Attorney Layman reported that a draft of OPR-specific legislation will be shared with the Board in January. Attorney Layman further reported that a bill permitting qualified psychologists to prescribe certain medications was likely to be reintroduced, and that OPR is in the process of completing its regulatory review of an application to create a license for music therapists.
 - d. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021.
 - e. The Board adjourned at 11.25 a.m.
5. Public Comment
- Hollis Easter asked the Board its rational for requiring post-degree supervision be in person, after the COVID 19 policy expires. The Board acknowledged the challenge presented with reverting to the expectation that post-degree supervision be in person, and shared some perspectives about the reasons in-person supervision is valuable. This will be a topic that the Board may continue to review going forward.

Respectfully submitted by: Diane Lafaille, Licensing Administrator I