



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

89 Main Street, 3rd Floor • Montpelier, VT 05620-3402
Tel. (802) 828-2390 - <https://sos.vermont.gov/opr/>

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
VERMONT BOARD OF ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
October 19, 2023 – REMOTE MEETING

Board Members Present: Tammy Austin, Mann Manpreet, Robert Wubbenhorst, Ellen Grimes, (Ad Hoc) and Michael Doyle, (Ad Hoc).

Board Members Absent: Jessyca Nelle and Christopher Berry.

Office Staff Present: Lauren Layman, General Counsel; Noura Eltabbakh, Staff Attorney; Emily Tredeau, Staff Attorney; Diane Lafaille, Licensing Administrator II; Julie Bowen, Docket Clerk, Attorney Jennifer Colin, and other OPR staff.

Others Present: Rachel Natvig, Sheila Martin, Ryan Welborn and Lara Govendo.

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. **Minutes**

Dr. Grimes moved, seconded by Mr. Wubbenhorst, to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting as written. Approved. Dr. Grimes abstained.

Mr. Wubbenhorst moved, seconded by Ms. Mann, to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2023 meeting as written. Approved.

3. **Hearing**

2023-50 Ajay Shah – A Stipulation and Consent Order was heard. Mr. Doyle moved, seconded by Mr. Wubbenhorst, to approve the Stipulation and Consent Order as presented. Approved.

4. **Discussion**

- a. Astrid Montuclard emailed the Board regarding MFT internship. The Board responded that Administrative Rule 4.10 (b), (c), and (d) state that a minimum of 500 hours of internship within the degree conferred is required for the degree to be accepted toward licensure. Applicants from non-COAMFTE programs must provide documentation of direct and indirect hours completed during the internship. (c) To be eligible for licensure each applicant must provide 500 hours of direct service. (d) An applicant who did not provide 500 hours of direct service during the internship must add to the 3,000 hours of post-degree supervised practice the difference between the direct service hours provided and 500 direct service hours required for licensure.

- b. The Board discussed the request of Dr. Rachel Natvig to supervise mental health counselor and marriage and family therapist trainees. Dr. Natvig has over three years of unencumbered licensed experience out of state and in Vermont, but not immediately preceding her request to supervise. Rules 3.19 (b) and 4.20(a) require three years of unencumbered licensure prior to supervision, but are silent on whether those years must immediately precede supervision. Dr. Grimes moved, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that the Board will determine case-by-case whether a licensee's prior nonconsecutive licensure is acceptable. Because of Dr. Natvig's out of state and Vermont prior practice and recent supervised practice, the Board approved her to provide supervision to mental health counselors and marriage and family therapist trainees. Approved.
- c. Dr. Jonalyn Blaha, Director, Counseling Psychology, at the California Institute of Integral Studies, emailed the Board inquiring about practicum vs internship. The Board noted that schools sometimes use the term practicum where the Board would use the term internship. The Board determined that this school's use of the term practicum was in keeping with the Board's use of the term "internship" for the purpose of the Rules. With the documentation submitted, it appears that this school requires a 225 practicum and/or internship. The school should be aware that Vermont Rule 3.12 requires a 700-hours internship to be completed before degree conferred, of which 100 hours can be in a practicum. Rule 3.8 (f) and (g) requires (f) the degree conferred must contain a supervised internship of at least 600 hours, as set forth below. (g) A degree containing an internship/practicum with fewer than 600 hours of supervised internship does not qualify as a degree in "counseling or a related field" under Vermont administrative rule and cannot be used as the basis for licensure as a clinical mental health counselor. This deficiency cannot be remedied post degree and cannot be supplemented.
- d. Elections – Mr. Wubbenhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Doyle, that Ms. Austin remain Chair of the Board and that Ms. Trombly remain Vice-Chair until the November meeting when an election will be held. Approved.

5. **Applications**

Mr. Wubbenhorst moved, seconded by Mr. Doyle, to accept the decisions on all applications reviewed.

- a. DeBarbieri, Jennifer – The Board reviewed the Reports of Supervision forms that were submitted. The Board is unable to accept two of the reports. Additional reports will be required.
- b. Dumayne, Elizabeth – Ms. Dumayne submitted a request for a waiver of Rule 3.15(b). The rule requires that, in order to ensure that an applicant's supervised practice reflects a current competence for licensure, only supervised practice hours acquired within 5 years of a final decision on licensure may be accepted. The Board denied this waiver.
- c. Govendo, Lara – Ms. Govendo requested that the Board review her education as being a CACREP accredited school. Her degree was accredited for Community Mental Health, not Clinical Mental Health. The Board stands by its original decision made in 2021. She will still need to successfully complete one 3-credit graduate

course in Treatment Modalities and one 3-credit graduate course in either Human Sexuality for Counselors, Crisis Intervention, Addictive Disorders, or Psychopharmacology as set out in Rule 3.9 (c).

- d. Koller, Adrienne - Traditional endorsement from Texas. The Board found that the requirements in Texas were not substantially equivalent because Texas requires a 280-hour internship. There is not statutory or administrative language available which would indicate that Texas requires 3 credits for each course. Vermont requires both the NCE and the NCMHCE examination. Texas requires one of these examinations. The applicant may apply through examination.
- e. Kuphal, Gracia – MFT – Traditional endorsement from Oregon. The Board found that the requirements in Oregon were not substantially equivalent because Oregon's requirements allows for 2 graduate credit courses in some of the areas. Oregon requires a 280-hour internship. Oregon requires 750 hours of post couples/family practice. Vermont requires the AMFTRB National Examination. Oregon allows for other examinations. The applicant may apply through examination.
- f. MacKey, Courtney – This application was tabled until the Board's November meeting.
- g. Raleigh, Morgain – Letters of support were submitted. The Board does not have the latitude to accept support letters to meet the requirements for licensure. Ms. Raleigh needs to submit syllabi for the courses listed on her transcript.
- h. Silva, Amanda – Review of internship was tabled until the Board's November meeting.
- i. Welborn, Ryan – The Board began the review of his education. This will be further reviewed at the Board's November meeting.

6. Continue Education

CA 191814 – Understanding Hoarding Disorders – Tabled

ICE 244576 – Crisis Intervention Team – Tabled

ICE 246589 – Trauma Informed School Training - Tabled

7. Public Comment

8. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2023.

9. The Board adjourned at 3:00 p.m.