



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 - www.sec.state.vt.us/professional-regulation.aspx

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF THE
VERMONT BOARD OF ALLIED MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS
September 15, 2022 – REMOTE MEETING

Board Members Present: Tammy Austin, Marjorie Trombly, Lynn Irwin, and Carol Smith

Others Present: Christopher Berry

Office Staff Present: Lauren Layman, Diane Lafaille, and Michelle Lavoie

1. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.
2. **Minutes** Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2022, meeting. Approved.

Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Trombly, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2022, meeting. Approved.
3. **Other**
 - a. Act 107, Telehealth Licenses and Registration – Attorney Layman provided the Board with an overview of Act 107 and described the Board’s role in assisting OPR to draft rules for Clinical Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists who are licensed out-of-state and are seeking Vermont telehealth licenses and registrations. The Board members will review the documentation and, individually, will provide comments to the Office within the next two weeks. At its October meeting, Attorney Layman will provide the Board with draft rules incorporating the Board members’ comments.
 - b. The AMFTRB Annual meeting is to be held in September 2022. No member of the Board is able to attend.
 - c. The Board discussed if it should begin the revisions of the Administrative Rules at this time. Attorney Layman noted that the Rules will be reviewed as part of the assessment of Vermont mental health licensing regulation, as ordered in Act 117 (2022).
 - d. Antioch MFT Memorandum of Understanding – This was tabled until the Board’s October meeting.

e. Attorney Layman notified the Board that a bill to adopt the Counseling Compact will be introduced during this upcoming legislative session. The purpose and use of compacts and the Counseling Compact was discussed. The Board will review the Counseling Compact and discuss further at its October meeting.

f. Elections

Ms. Smith nominated Ms. Austin for Chair.

Mr. Irwin nominated Ms. Trombly for Vice Chair.

Ms. Smith nominated Mr. Irwin for Secretary.

Ms. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Irwin, to approve the slate as nominated.

Approved.

4. The Board went into deliberative session at 12:35 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. They came out of deliberative session at 1:25 p.m.

5. **Applications**

a. Biron, Elizabeth – Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve her application for licensure. Approved.

b. Holmes, Ashley – Lesley University only allows graduate students to transfer up to six semester credit hours. Ms. Holmes completed five courses at Springfield College, a total of 15 credit hours. Lesley University accepted the transfer of six of these credit hours, or two Springfield College courses, into the Lesley University Counseling Psychology degree program and “waived” the three other Springfield College courses into the degree program.

The Board reviewed a letter from Lesley University’s licensing advisor explaining the University’s “waiver” process, Ms. Holmes’ transcript from Lesley University noting which Springfield College courses were accepted for waiver, and course descriptions from Springfield College. These materials indicate that, though the *credits* from three of Ms. Holmes’ completed Springfield College courses were not transferred into the Lesley University degree, Lesley University accepted these Springfield College courses as substitutes for coursework requirements in the Lesley University Counseling Psychology degree program. In turn, the Board finds that Ms. Holmes’ degree from Lesley University includes the Springfield College coursework. Ms. Holmes’ master’s degree program is, thus, an “acceptable degree” in accordance with the Administrative Rules.

Ms. Holmes’ master’s degree from Lesley University only contained 48 credit hours of graduate coursework instead of the 60 credit hours of graduate coursework required by the Administrative Rules. The Board finds that the three Springfield College courses that were “waived into” and accepted as part of the Lesley University degree program without any credit hours being awarded may be used to fulfill the 60-credit-hour graduate coursework requirement in the Administrative Rules. Each of the Springfield College courses were three credit hours. Therefore, the Board finds that Ms. Holmes has completed 57 credit hours of graduate coursework (48 credit hours as part of the Lesley University degree program and nine credit hours from Springfield College courses) and must complete an additional three credit hours of coursework related to the practice of clinical mental health counseling.

Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, to approve the Lesley University Counseling Psychology master's degree completed by Ms. Holmes as an acceptable degree, with the understanding that Ms. Holmes must complete three (3) additional credit hours of coursework to fulfill the educational requirements for LCMHC licensure. Approved.

c. Polly-Almanza, Abby – MFT – Additional information is needed.

d. Troop, Marni – MFT – Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Smith, that she will need an additional two credit hours of coursework to meet the 48-credit-hour coursework requirement in Rule 4.12.

e. Vidana, Lorren – She submitted a request asking for a waiver of Rule 3.15(b). Ms. Trombly moved, seconded by Mr. Irwin, to waive Rule 3.15(b) because, due to a significant medical event experienced by Ms. Vidana that delayed her ability to complete the requirements for LCMHC licensure, it would be manifestly unfair to refuse to consider Ms. Vidana's completed supervisory hours that are over five years old. Approved.

6. Continuing Education

Mr. Irwin moved, seconded by Ms. Austin, to delegate the authority to Ms. Smith, to review the continuing education courses for approval. Approved. These include the following:

a. ICE – 147601 – First Play

b. CA 130774 – Clinical Supervision Training

c. CA 134784 – Foundational Training in Dialogue Therapy and Real Dialogue

d. CA 134797 – Level 1 Clinical Hypnosis Workshop

e. ICE 165704 – Treatment of Complex Development Trauma

f. ICE 171572 – The Psychedelic Assisted Therapy Training

7. Public Comment

8. The Board's next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2022.

9. The Board adjourned at 2:05 p.m.