

# TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Steven Hallbauer, Board Chair  
Christopher Taylor, LPC-S Board Vice-Chair  
Dr. Lia Amuna, LPC  
Dr. Loretta J. Bradley, LPC-S  
Brenda S. Compagnone, LPC-S  
Vanessa Hall  
Garrett Nerren  
Roy Smith  
Janie Stubblefield, LPC-S

Cristina De Luna  
Board Administrator

## MEETING MINUTES September 10, 2021

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors Meeting met via Zoom video conference on September 10, 2021. The following Board members were in attendance: Steven Hallbauer-Chair, Dr. Christopher Taylor-Vice Chair, Dr. Lia Amuna, Dr. Loretta Bradley, Brenda Compagnone, Vanessa Hall, and Janie Stubblefield. Also, in attendance was Cristina De Luna, Board Administrator of the LPC Board.

The following Board members had an approved absence from the September 10, 2021 meeting: Garrett Nerren and Roy Smith.

### **Friday, September 10, 2021**

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Steven Hallbauer.

2. The Board moved into Item II, Introduction of members and staff.

3. The Board moved into Item III, Meeting Minutes.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR AND SECONDED BY DR. LORETTA BRADLEY TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7, 2021 BOARD MEETING AS SUBMITTED. THE VOTE WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. The Board moved into Item IV, Board review and possible action regarding Application Denial(s).

A. A MOTION WAS MADE IN REGARD TO JUAN CARRILLO'S APPLICATION FOR UPGRADE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD TO DENY FULL LICENSURE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DR. LORETTA BRADLEY. THE VOTE WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. JUAN CARRILLO WAS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM AND DID RECEIVE APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF THE MEETING.

B. A MOTION WAS MADE IN REGARD TO KATRICE RAND'S APPLICATION FOR LPC-ASSOCIATE LICENSURE. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD TO DENY APPLICATION FOR LICENSURE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BRENDA COMPAGNONE. THE VOTE WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. KATRICE RAND WAS NOT PRESENT IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM AND DID RECEIVE APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF THE MEETING.

5. The Board moved into Item V, Discussion and possible action, regarding reports of orders from third quarter executed by Council's Executive Director.

NO ACTION TAKEN.

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6.The Board moved into Item VI, Updated reports regarding Annual Enforcement Actions, Q3 Complaint Dismissal Report, and Q3 Performance Measure Report for third quarter.

NO MOTION NEEDED.

7.The Board moved into Item VII, Discussion and possible action related to State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) Proposals for Decision (PFD) and possible orders to be recommended or ratified by the Board.

NO ACTION NEEDED

8. The Board moved into Item XIII, Rulemaking – Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors:

A. Review and consideration of the following proposed/repealed rule changes: *(Will be reviewed by Council at next meeting.)*

i. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR AND SECONDED BY DR. LIA AMUNA TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.83. DR. LORETTA BRADLEY OPPOSED.

ii. A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRENDA COMPAGNONE AND SECONDED BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.205. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR AND SECONDED BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.6. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. Review of the following proposed rule changes: *(Council approved August 24, 2021. Rules are being sent to Texas Register.)*

i. NO MOTION NECESSARY TO PROPOSED RULE 681.2.

ii. NO MOTION NECESSARY TO PROPOSED RULE 681.91.

iii. NO MOTION NECESSARY TO PROPOSED RULE 681.93.

C. Review of the following withdrawn rule changes: *(Rule proposals are being resubmitted for public comment with additional changes approved by the Council at the August 24, 2021 meeting.)*

i. NO MOTION NECESSARY TO PROPOSED RULE 681.2.

ii. NO MOTION NECESSARY TO PROPOSED RULE 681.93.

D. Consideration and possible adoption of the following proposed rule changes:

i. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD AND SECONDED BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.41. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

ii. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. LIA AMUNA AND SECONDED BY DR. LORETTA BRADLEY TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.72. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

iii. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD AND SECONDED BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.73. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

iv. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD AND SECONDED BY DR. LORETTA BRADLEY TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.82. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

v. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR LIA AMUNA AND SECONDED BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.114. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

vi. A MOTION WAS MADE BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD AND SECONDED BY DR. LIA AMUNA TO ACCEPT PROPOSED LANGUAGE FOR 681.205. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. The board moved into Item IX, Discussion and possible action concerning Committee Reports:

- A. Rules Committee Report regarding proposed changes to board rules and proposed LPC Social Media Use and Electronic Communication Guidelines.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR LIA AMUNA AND SECONDED BY DR. LORETTA BRADLEY TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED LPC SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. The Board moved into Item X, Board Chair Report and update concerning current challenges and accomplishments; interaction with stakeholders, state officials, and staff; workload of Board members; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the Board and BHEC.

Chair Steven Hallbauer discussed coursework rule to make process better without sacrificing minimum standards. The 3,000 hours of supervised experience was not picked up in Special Session. The Board will continue to monitor and hope to get picked up in future session. Term for LPC-Associate and Supervisor relationship have been sent to Texas Register and the Board will review all Public Comment submitted. Art Therapy language has been withdrawn and was not approved at that level. The Standardization Committee has already submitted a new rule proposal related to court therapy. Council Executive Director has organized a BHEC Customer Service Survey that will begin to be used.

Vice-Chair Taylor noted CE's and telehealth are also topics being discussed with the other member boards. Boards continue to work well and identify best necessary changes.

Executive Director, Darrel Spinks provided an update to the non-disclosure --- Attorney General Paxton opined the Council does not have the authority to include the protected classes. Council determined to take no action. Darrel is also working in a Workforce Study that will be reviewed by the member Board and then sent to the professional associations will review and then send for Public Comment.

11. The Board moved into Item XI, Board Administrator's Report concerning program operations; customer service accomplishments and challenges; workload processing; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the licensure program and enforcement compliance.

Board Administrator providing update – Licensing has a new staff member (4 total staff for LPC) who continues in training. BA provided visual on how to contact the board for inquiries and to provide deficiencies using the Contact Us Form on the website.

12. The Board moved into Item XII, Public comments – Public comment is limited to three (3) minutes per person, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer. Please note that the Council may not discuss or act on any matter raised during public comment, except to decide whether to place the matter on the agenda of a future meeting.

- Mr. Zach Alexander provided public comment in person. Requested the board consider exceptions to rule §681.41(m)(2).
- Dr. Katherine Bacon with the Texas Counseling Association. TCA does not support the proposed changes to 681.83 noting the change could jeopardize Texas ability to joining the Counseling Compact by making for content areas optional; Group, Professional Orientation, Research, and Career. Making these courses optional for a counseling-related degree can place the public at risk. TCA appreciates the access to meetings via Zoom and note the importance to keep stakeholders a part of Committee meetings to ensure discussions and reason behind suggested rule changes. Removing the violations from the website limits the ability for the public to have access and learning opportunity. Continue to hear many applicants/licensees continue to struggle with emails and phone calls to the office.
- Dr. Joel Carr noted in the Consolidated Rulebook under §681.31(18) page 82, language seems out of place.
- Angela Bulls with the Texas Counseling Association noted courses Group, Career, Research, and Professional Orientation should remain as required courses. Education is the frontline to promoting safer and stronger counselors to protect the community. Joining the Counseling Compact is very important to help with the shortage of professionals and this change could make us lose the ability to join.
- Dr. Greta Davis LPC-S and counselor educator opposes the proposed academic changes. Seems that the proposed changes are to assist individuals coming from out of state or those with counseling-related degrees. Noted that a board member commented that the changes were made when the board made the changes to the coursework effective 2017, and to reverse this would be to go back to their old rules. Instead, the board is proposing to remove core curriculum areas. CACREP sets minimum standards for the profession, Texas sets standards for Texas, but wonders why Texas would advocate to set minimum standards below what is recognized as standard for the field. If Texas adopts the proposed, applicants would not be prepared for their licensing exam. Understands that staff are overwhelmed and frustrated by minimum standards the review of cases, but the responsibility is on the applicant to show minimum competency. Out of state licensees or those with related degrees can pursue licenses available to them or they can meet LPC minimum standards with should include all eight of the CACREP standards. By simply removing the additional courses required in 2017, they can do that without threatening the core curricular areas for the profession.
- Sandra Martin with Christian Counselors of Texas appreciated being able to be apart of the Committee meetings being open to the public in the past.
- Mario De La Garza with Texas Association for Counselor Education and Supervision noted that counseling is a distinct profession. If a counselor does not have skill sets necessary, can that counselor provide competent counseling? This may cause the counselor to be in a lesser category. Counseling Education Programs do look at what needs to be in the rules for guidance as to what

needs to be taught. Having the training be done during their clinical training is backloading and adding too much responsibility in the training. Also requests the outline of the meetings.

- Jan Friese with Texas Counseling Association noted some efficiencies that are being put in place seem too not be very transparent. Having the stakeholders being a part Committee meeting is important to keep up with changes. When staff do not answer calls and voicemails it trickles over to the professional associations. The new Contact Form should be great, but it is not easy for people to locate.

13. The Board moved to Item XIII, Items for consideration for future committee and Board meeting agendas.

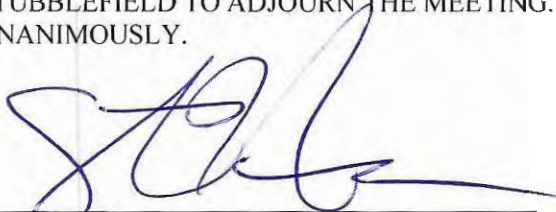
Dr. Loretta Bradley requested to have an update on the counseling compact.

14. The Board moved into Item XV, Announcements and comments not requiring Board action, such as statements regarding conferences, future board meetings, and other recent or upcoming events.

- NBCC National Conference August 2021.
- TCA Conference – November 2021
- Next virtual board meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2021.
- TACES Conference February 2022

15. Adjournment

A MOTION WAS MADE BY DR. CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR AND SECONDED BY JANIE STUBBLEFIELD TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.



11/12/21

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Chair Steven Hallbauer