

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



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RESOLUTION

**Of the TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
Regarding Consideration and Acknowledgment of the Workforce Shortage that exists in THE
STATE OF TEXAS with regard to licensed professional counselors.**

- I. WHEREAS, the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors is committed to ensuring the availability of qualified mental health professionals to meet the needs of Texas residents;
- II. WHEREAS, the field of licensed professional counseling is critical to addressing the mental health needs of the population, providing services that aid in mental, emotional, physical, moral, social, educational, spiritual, and career development and adjustment;
- III. WHEREAS, every report on the mental health workforce in Texas has identified a significant shortage of licensed professional counselors (LPCs) across the state;
- IV. WHEREAS, as of August 31, 2024, there were 29,922 active licensed professional counselors and licensed professional counselor associates in Texas, resulting in an appropriate statewide population-to-provider ratio of approximately 1,004:1, with even higher ratios in non-metropolitan and border areas;
- V. WHEREAS, the shortage is exacerbated in areas with greater needs, such as those with high poverty levels, large underage or geriatric populations, and high prevalence of alcohol or substance abuse; and

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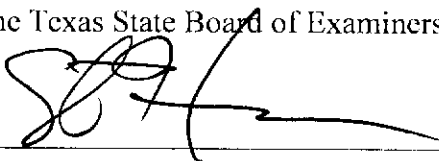
VI. WHEREAS, the demand for mental health services continues to grow, necessitating an increase in the number of licensed professional counselors to adequately serve the population of Texas;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

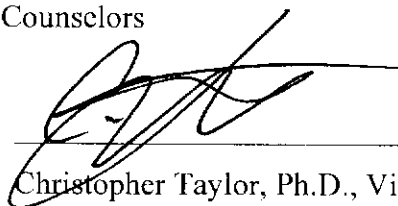
- I. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors acknowledges the current workforce shortage of licensed professional counselors within the state.
- II. The Board affirms its commitment to working collaboratively with state agencies, educational institutions, and professional organizations to develop and implement strategies aimed at increasing the number of licensed professional counselors in Texas.
- III. The Board supports initiatives to enhance training programs, provide incentives for new professionals entering the field, and address barriers to licensure that may impede the growth of the counseling workforce.
- IV. The Board calls for increased funding and resources to support the recruitment, education, and retention of licensed professional counselors, particularly in underserved and high-need areas.
- V. The Board encourages ongoing research and data collection to monitor the workforce trends and ensure that the supply of licensed professional counselors meets the evolving needs of the Texas population.
- VI. The Board encourages all private insurance companies to evaluate and improve their reimbursement methods for professional counseling to help foster and incentivize the counseling workforce while also expanding access and affordability for clients.

ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF September 2024

By the Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors



Steven Hallbauer, Chair



Christopher Taylor, Ph.D., Vice-Chair