

Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors

April 24, 2020
SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
Via Teleconference
MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Richard Strebeck, Chair, Congressional District—At-Large
Dr. Kimberly Elam Sallis, Vice Chair, Congressional District I
Dr. Lynn Etheridge, Congressional District II
Steven Stafford, Secretary, Congressional District III
Isaac Boose, Congressional District IV

Others Present

LeeAnn Mordecai, Board Executive Director
Ken Walley, Board Attorney, Special Assistant Attorney General

I. Call to Order

The Special Called Board meeting of the Mississippi State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors (“Board”) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Dr. Richard Strebeck, Chair (“Chair”) on Friday, April 24, 2020. The meeting was held via teleconference and was made available to the public by contacting the Board office for call-in instructions. A roll call of Board members was taken, and a quorum was present.

II. Jurisprudence Exam Update

Dr. Strebeck updated the Board regarding the Jurisprudence Exam, which will be ready beginning with the 2020 license renewals. The Board affirmed that licensees would receive 3 ethics CEH for Mississippi license renewal. After this discussion, Dr. Etheridge motioned that an LPC-S would receive 2 ethics CEH and 1 supervision CEH for Mississippi license renewal, Mr. Stafford seconded. The Board approved this motion 5-0.

III. Proclamation Review and Update

The Board reviewed its existing Proclamation regarding the temporary use of telemental health due to the COVID 19 pandemic and the Governor’s executive orders and discussed potential ending dates. No action was taken, and the Proclamation continues as issued. The Board will discuss again at the next Regular Board Meeting scheduled for May 15, 2020.

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IV. TeleMental Health

Dr. Strebeck presented to the Board the following draft for potential changes to the Board's Rules and Regulations regarding TeleMental Health counseling. The Board reviewed and discussed each aspect of the draft. No action was taken, but the Board will review the draft for final changes/edits at the next Regular Board meeting.

If these changes are adopted, the Board agreed that the "Telehealth for Mental Health Professionals" offered by PESI would be an acceptable training because American Counseling Association partnered with PESI to provide this training for its members.

Proposed Rules and Regulation Changes:

Rule 7.5: Practice of Distance Professional Services (TeleMental Health)

Any person providing counseling or supervision services through the means of Distance Professional Services (Telemental Health) must meet the following requirements:

- A. Be an Active Status P-LPC, LPC, or LPC-S in Mississippi.
- B. Hold a license in good standing in the location of the recipient receiving services.
- C. P-LPCs can practice Telemental health counseling after 1 year of experience licensed as a P-LPC and with permission of his/her LPC-S.
- D. Submit to the Board verification of training (including synchronous or asynchronous audio/video webinars) in Telemental Health counseling by completing one of the following:
 1. Show completion of the Board Certified-TeleMental Health (BC-TMH) credential from the Center for Credentialing and Education, Inc. (CCE), an affiliate of the National Board of Certified Counselors (NBCC), or an equivalent credential as recognized by CCE.
 2. Training through either
 - (a) Graduate-Level Academic Training (as documented on the syllabus) or
 - (b) Continuing Education training course (subject to Rule 6.2 and documented by certificate). At a minimum, the professional training must be a minimum of nine (9) face-to-face clock hours which must include the following topics:
 - i. HIPAA compliance for Telemental Health
 - ii. Ethical and legal issues in Telemental Health, including confidentiality/privacy issues
 - iii. Crisis planning & protocols in Telemental Health

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- iv. Choosing and using technology in Telemental Health
- v. Orienting clients to Telemental Health
- vi. Telemental health settings and care coordination
- vii. Appropriateness of Telemental Health

E. At the time of license renewal, LPC's must document 2 hours of continuing education in Telemental Health counseling and P-LPCs must document 1 hour of continuing education in Telemental Health counseling.

Rule 1.4.

O. Distance Professional Services: Counseling, consulting, and clinical supervision services provided by an LPC (as referenced in Rule 7.5) in one location to a recipient of services in another location by means of secure electronic communication in either asynchronous or face to face synchronous methods.

Rule 4.3 Individual and Group Supervision provided by an LPC-S is subject to the following criteria:

- a. Be qualified to provide Distance Professional Services according to Rule 7.5.

V. Board Request

Dawn Sias requested the Board grant her an administrative hearing because the Board did not accept the 3 CEH she submitted to fulfill the educational requirement of her Agreed Order with the Board. Dr. Etheridge motioned to deny Ms. Sias' request, seconded by Mr. Boose. After discussion, the Board voted 5-0 to deny Ms. Sias' request.

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VI. Adjourn

Mr. Stafford motioned to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Etheridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the Board meeting (5-0).

Dr. Strebeck adjourned the meeting at 3:24 p.m.

Approved this the May day of 15, 2020.

/s/

Board Chair

/s/

Board Member