

Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors

Minutes of the VIRTUAL Board Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2020 at 9:00 A.M.

The Oklahoma Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors met for a Board Meeting on Monday, May 18, 2020 in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act and Open Meetings Act. The meeting was held virtually.

Dr. Judith Adams presented the Statement of Compliance with the Open Meetings Act and the Mission Statement of the Board. Advance notice of this scheduled meeting was transmitted to the Oklahoma Secretary of State on September 20, 2019, and posted on the OBLADC website. The notice and agenda were posted in prominent public view on the front doors of the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision building located at 101 N.E. 51st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on May 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Members present at roll call were:

Dr. Judith Adams
Dr. Bill Sharp
Steven Fritz
Rita Maxwell
Cathy Christensen
James Patterson
Don Burk

Others present were Ric Pierson, Executive Director of the Board of Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselors, Sandra Balzer, Assistant Attorney General and Counsel for the Board, and Randy Honeycutt, new Board appointee to begin serving in July, and Reji Varghese, Deputy Director, Oklahoma Medical Board.

Minutes for the March 16, 2020 Board Meeting were reviewed. Steven Fritz made a motion to approve the minutes and Rita Maxwell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

Mr. Pierson reported that the void application letters have been mailed and that he has received some feedback and many letters have been returned as undeliverable.

Mr. Paul Plummer is requesting reconsideration of his voided application. Mr. Plummer is not present today and Mr. Patterson made a motion to defer any action until Mr. Plummer comes before the Board in July. Dr. Sharp seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

Gwendolyn McGarrity-McCarroll, voided LADC application, is requesting reinstatement of her voided application. Ms. McGarrity-McCarroll is not present today. Ms. Christensen made a motion to defer any decision until the next Board meeting in July and have Ms. McGarrity-McCarroll appear in person and show cause why her application should be reinstated.. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

Mr. Pierson reported that approximately 1200 Renewal post cards have been printed and mailed by OMES to our certified and licensed counselors.

Mr. Pierson began a discussion regarding continuing education requirements for this renewal cycle, due to many in-person workshops being cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Mr. Pierson suggested the Board consider allowing Live webinars be considered as “in-person” workshops and that, if necessary, persons that have not completed their workshop hours for renewal be allowed to complete all workshop requirements on-line. Also, a statement was made that services could be performed by telehealth means to insure that services not be disrupted any more than necessary due to social distancing mandates. Mr. Fritz made a motion to allow these changes in continuing education requirements and that all continuing education requirements

may be completed online through June 30, 2020 and that telehealth services can be utilized for continuity of services. Ms. Maxwell seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Abstain
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

Mr. Pierson was joined by Mr. Reji Varghese, Deputy Director of the Oklahoma Medical Board, to discuss the possibility of entering into an agreement to update the current data base software platform. Mr. Varghese discussed the benefits of updating our data base software platform and stated that the Medical Board is probably going to contract to update the platform in the next month or so. After discussion, Mr. Patterson made the motion to give Mr. Pierson the authority to further explore this possibility and get more information on costs/benefits to our Board. Once more information is obtained, Mr. Pierson shall call a special meeting, if needed, to make a decision regarding updating the data base software platform. Mr. Fritz seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

Mr. Pierson gave a financial report and stated that we have made considerable progress in getting the Board's financial stability under control. Mr. Pierson stated this is largely due to having only one paid staff in the office for over a year now and the fact that fee increases that went into effect last year are substantially helping out. Mr. Pierson also reported that all past due Medical Board invoices have been paid, monthly bills are current with the exception of the FY-20 contract with the Attorney General's office. Mr. Pierson recommended the Attorney General's contract be paid at this time. After some discussion, Mr. Burk made a motion to pay one-half of the AG's contract, invoices for July 2019 through December 2019, at this time and pay the other half after our renewals come in. Ms. Christensen seconded this motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes

Don Burk Yes

Ms. Christensen made a motion to accept the financial report. Ms. Maxwell seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp Yes
Dr. Judith Adams Yes
Rita Maxwell Yes
Cathy Christensen Yes
James Patterson Yes
Don Burk Yes

Mr. Pierson discussed the possibility of hiring a temporary, part-time staff member. Discussion included the possibility of hiring Kathy Pierson, Mr. Pierson's wife, due to the fact that she is a retired state employee, is familiar with state systems, and she volunteered last summer during renewals and would require minimal training to perform the same functions. Requests have been made for opinions on nepotism with OMES and the Ethics Commission. Ms. Christensen made a motion to actively pursue getting these opinions before moving forward. Dr. Sharp seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp Yes
Dr. Judith Adams Yes
Rita Maxwell Yes
Cathy Christensen Yes
James Patterson Yes
Don Burk Yes

DUE TO THE SUSPENSION OF TESTING, NO CANDIDATES HAVE QUALIFIED FOR LICENSURE THIS PERIOD. Mr. Pierson did present one person for reciprocity as follows:

Lizette De La Paz U.S. Air Force ADC#2128 Altus

Ms. De La Paz completed all IC&RC requirements, including passing the written and oral exams, and meets requirements per reciprocity standards. Ms. Christensen made a motion to grant Ms. De La Paz her Oklahoma CADC. Mr. Patterson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp Yes
Dr. Judith Adams Yes
Rita Maxwell Yes
Cathy Christensen Yes
James Patterson Yes
Don Burk Yes

Under New Business, Dr. Sharp stated that the Board needs to be clear and issue a statement that telehealth services be presented in compliance with all state and federal regulations, and that he is making a motion to that effect. Ms. Christensen seconded this motion and a roll call vote was taken and recorded as follows:

Steven Fritz	Yes
Dr. Bill Sharp	Yes
Dr. Judith Adams	Yes
Rita Maxwell	Yes
Cathy Christensen	Yes
James Patterson	Yes
Don Burk	Yes

There was no further business to come before the Board and the meeting was adjourned.