

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

February 23, 2026

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Jon Ferguson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Indiana Government Center South, 302 West Washington Street, Room W064, Indianapolis, Indiana, and declared a quorum with Indiana Code § IC 25-23.6-2.

Board Members Present:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Board Chair

Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW, Vice Chair, Section Chair

Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC, Section Chair
(arrived at 12:45 p.m.)

C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC, Board Designee

Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW, Section Chair

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW

Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT, Section Chair

Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member

Kelli Heuer, Consumer Member

Board Members Not Present:

Licensed Clinical Social Worker - Vacant

State Officials Present:

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency

Dana Brooks, Assistant Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency

Brad Repass, Litigation Specialist, Professional Licensing Agency

Adam Harvey, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the agenda as amended.

Justice/Cooper-Bolinskey

Motion carried 8-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes are still under review.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE RULE HEARING

A. LSA Document #25-820 Counseling Compact Fee Rule

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Board Chair
Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW, Vice Chair, Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC, Board Designee
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW, Section Chair
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT, Section Chair
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Kelli Heuer, Consumer Member

State Officials Present:

Cindy Vaught, Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Dana Brooks, Assistant Board Director, Professional Licensing Agency
Brad Repass, Litigation Specialist, Professional Licensing Agency
Adam Harvey, Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

A public hearing was held on February 23, 2026, pursuant to Indiana Code 4-22-2. This hearing was convened in Room W064 of the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana at 9:03 a.m. local time. This meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

Notice of the hearing was published in the Indiana Register on January 14, 2026, as well as the full text of the proposed rule.

The purpose of this hearing is to hear public comment regarding LSA Document #25-820 concerning fees for Counseling Compact privileges that may be imposed by the Board. All those who address the Board are requested to give their names and addresses for the purpose of the record and this hearing. Only those who address their comments to the chair will be recognized. Individual public comments shall be limited to 3 minutes in length. Upon adoption by the Board and approval by the Attorney General and Governor, said rules will become effective 30 days after filing with the Indiana Register. Mr. Ferguson presided over this rule hearing.

Written Comments:

As of the comment deadline of February 13, 2026, no written comments were received by the Board in advance of this hearing.

Public Comments:

The Board will take comments from the public at this time. The hearing was opened for comments from the public.

There were no comments from the public.

Board Comments:

There were no comments from the Board.

Board Action:

A motion was made and seconded to adopt LSA #25-820 Counseling Compact Fee Rule as written.

Justice/Gardner
Motion carried 8-0-0

The video recording for LSA #25-820 Public Hearing YouTube Link:
<https://youtu.be/j2me24F9Wfo>

V. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Austin Ramsey

Cause No. 202510-BHS-0038

Re: Notice of Proposed Default, Response to Notice of Proposed Default and
Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent not present
Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

State Witness:

Cindy Vaught
Brittany Ulrey

Case Summary: On or about January 5, 2026, the Board issued a Notice of Proposed Default to Mr. Ramsey as he failed to appear before them on or about December 15, 2025. Ms. Rochester noted that he did email the Board asking the Board not to find him Default as he is currently enrolled in a recovery program; however, the State requested that the Board find him in Default. The State indicated that Mr. Ramsey could find counsel or another representative to speak on his behalf if he could not appear.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to find Mr. Ramsey in Default.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 8-0-0

The State called Ms. Cindy Vaught as a witness. Ms. Vaught is a Board Director for the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency and a keeper of records. She confirmed that Mr. Ramsey does not currently hold a license in the State of Indiana and has not applied to obtain a license to practice.

The State called Brittney Ulrey as a witness. Ms. Ulrey is an investigator with the Office of Attorney General. She submitted Exhibits 1-3 for the Board to review. The Board accepted the Exhibits. She indicated that an anonymous complaint was received which indicated Mr. Ramsey was making harassing phone calls to a client, and that Mr. Ramsey was working in the capacity of a Social Worker without a license. She indicated that she was able to reach out to the anonymous individual and was able to obtain copies of the voicemails and screenshots of conversations Mr. Ramsey had with the individual.

Ms. Rochester stated that, based upon the evidence provided, Mr. Ramsey was engaging in unlicensed practice of social work and requested that the Board issue a Cease and Desist Order.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Cease and Desist in the matter of Mr. Ramsey.

Viehweg/Gardner
Motion carried 8-0-0

B. Anthony Grady

Cause No. 202409-BHS-0067

Re: Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent present with counsel Shontrai Irving
Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

State Witnesses:

Brittany Ulrey

Brad Repass

Case Summary: On or about March 13, 2024, a Consumer Complaint was received with allegations that Mr. Grady is engaging in unlicensed practice. On or about September 19, 2024, a Motion to Cease and Desist was filed against Mr. Grady. Mr. Eldridge stated that after investigation, it was determined that the work Mr. Grady engaged in did not fall under any license exemption statutes.

The State called Ms. Ulrey as witness. She is an investigator with the Office of Attorney General. The state submitted Exhibits 1-4 for the Board to review. She provided an overview of her investigation in the original complaint of an inappropriate relationship between Mr. Grady and a client. She stated during the course of the investigation it was discovered that Mr. Grady did not currently hold a license to practice, and was advertising services on his website that he could not offer unless he held a license. Mr. Irving asked Ms. Ulrey if she sought clarification of the duties Mr. Grady performed versus what were listed as offered on the website. She stated she did not. Mr. Irving inquired if she determined that the relationship between Mr. Grady and his client was inappropriate. Mr. Eldridge objected as the basis of the complaint was an unlicensed practice concern, and there was not enough evidence to charge Mr. Grady with an inappropriate relationship with a client. Mr. Irving noted that he felt this allegation was highly prejudicial as that initial complaint allegation led to a different charge. The State indicated that they had to go towards where there was a concern that had merit.

Mr. Grady was called as a witness. He indicated that he submitted an application for licensure in Indiana but did not recall the specific date. The Board took judicial notice of their files which indicated that he has submitted six license applications since 2015, and he has been granted three temporary clinical social worker permits. The last temporary permit expired in November 2019. Mr. Grady stated that he was aware that specific positions were exempt from licensure like working for the State of Indiana in DCS, but he does not hold one of those government positions. Mr. Grady stated that he works under supervision of an HSPP psychologist handling only Medicaid clients. He indicated that some of his work is in Illinois where he does have a license. He stated that Illinois allowed him to obtain his license on the basis of his years of work, and he is still attempting to pass the ASWB Clinical exam. He indicated that his understanding was that he could work provided he was supervised. He stated that once he became aware of this concern, he has started transferring his clients to licensed therapists in Indiana. He stated that his clients were aware he was working under supervision.

Mr. Eldridge stated that Mr. Grady has been engaged in the practice of clinical social work in the state of Indiana where he knows a license is needed to practice, as he has applied for licensure previously. He stated that the work Mr. Grady has been engaging in does not fall in any of the license exemption statutes. Mr. Irving stated that Mr. Grady has been working to address the States concerns once the misinformation of the initial concern was clarified.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Cease and Desist in the matter of Mr. Grady.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 8-0-0

C. Carolyn Webster

Cause No. 202512-BHS-0043

Re: Voluntary Cease and Desist Agreement and Motion for Order to Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent not present

Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General

Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson

Stephan Viehweg

C. Martin Justice

Kathryn Adams

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey

Kelley Gardner

Peter Karalis

Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about December 23, 2025, a Motion to Cease and Desist was issued against Ms. Webster with allegations of practicing as a clinical social worker without a license. On or about January 13, 2026, Ms. Webster entered into a Voluntary Cease and Desist Agreement with the State. Ms. Rochester requested that the Board accept the agreement as Ms. Webster indicated that she is close to retirement and has she no longer has any active clients wrapped up all her clients.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Voluntary Cease and Desist Agreement in the matter of Ms. Webster.

Viehweg/Justice
Motion carried 8-0-0

D. Nathan Smith, LSW, License No. 33007819A

Cause No. 2019 BHSB 0005

Re: Notice of Proposed Dismissal and Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent not present

Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General

Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about October 27, 2025, Mr. Smith was requested to appear before the Board to discuss his request to withdraw his probation status. On or about January 16, 2026, a Notice of Proposed Dismissal was issued to Mr. Smith as he failed to appear at the meeting and did not provide any communication. Ms. Rochester stated that as he submitted the request to withdraw his probation status, it is his burden of proof to be present and respond. She stated that since there has been no communication from Mr. Smith, asks the Board to Dismiss his request to withdraw the probation status.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Dismissal Order in the matter of Mr. Smith.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 8-0-0

E. David Werdine, II, LMHCA, License No. 88002363A

Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0043

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about October 13, 2023, the Board voted to approve Mr. Werdine's application on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six (6) months

- Keep the Board up to date on her contact information
- Keep the Board up to date on her employment and their contact information
- 10 hours of CE in ethics or licensure
- Employer sign and submit the Final Board Order
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence exam
- Have at least six (6) months of employment in a clinical setting
- Appear before the Board on a quarterly basis to discuss progress with Order.
- Follow all rules and regulations in the State of Indiana and understand that further violation may result in further sanctions

Mr. Werdine admitted that he submitted the petition to withdraw probation without reviewing the terms of his probation order and asked the Board to allow him to dismiss “..his request to withdraw probation. The Board denied his request. Mr. Werdine stated that he wished to proceed without an attorney, although he did not understand the procedures. He stated that he thought the ethic continuing education and the Indiana jurisprudence examination were the same thing, and that he is currently working at Hickory Recovery Center. He stated that he understands that he has not completed all probation requirements at this time.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Mr. Werdine’s request to withdraw his petition for withdraw of probation at this time.

Justice/Cooper-Bolinsky
Motion carried 8-0-0

The Board stated that they had concerns with his current practice and compliance with the probation and wished to have him provide clarification. Mr. Werdine stated that he currently works at his supervisor’s private practice and he has signed a supervisor contract with them where he would bill under his supervisor’s license. The Board asked for clarification on who is considered liable if something happens with a client. Mr. Werdine indicated that he did not understand. The Board stated that typically if a supervisor agreement contract is signed, then Mr. Werdine would be considered liable, which would indicate that Mr. Werdine is engaging in an independent practice setting. Mr. Werdine stated he was unaware and assumed that his supervisor is aware of the statute and rules to allow him to practice that way. Mr. Werdine indicated that he did not do any of his own research or understand that differences between an associate license and full clinical license. The Board asked if he submitted any reports, a copy of his signed order by his employer, or have email chains his attempts to comply. He stated that he does not have that documentation.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Mr. Werdine’s petition to withdraw the probation status.

Justice/Viehweg
Motion carried 8-0-0

A motion was made and seconded to issue an Order to Show Cause in the matter of Mr. Werdine.

Justice/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 8-0-0

F. Mariah Lienemann, LSW, License No. 33011079A

Cause No. 202601-BHS-0003

Re: Petition for Summary Suspension and Voluntary Summary Suspension Agreement

Parties Present:

Respondent not present
Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about January 8, 2026, a Petition for Summary Suspension was filed by the state in the matter of Ms. Lienemann. On January 22, 2026, Ms. Lienemann entered into a Voluntary Summary Suspension Agreement with the State. Ms. Rochester asked the Board to accept the agreement.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Voluntary Summary Suspension Agreement in the matter of Ms. Lienemann.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 8-0-0

G. Timothy Theye, LCSW, License No. 87000308A, 34004130A

Cause No. 202507-BHS-0030

Re: Proposed Settlement Agreement

Parties Present:

Respondent not present
Carah Rochester, Deputy Attorney General
Lindy Meyer, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Jon Ferguson
Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kathryn Adams
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Kelley Gardner
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about March 5, 2025, a Consumer Complaint was filed against Mr. Theye with allegations of lewd or immoral conduct, sexual contact with a patient, failure to keep up to date with professional standards of practice and knowingly violating the laws of Indiana. On or about February 18, 2026, Mr. Theye agreed to the following Settlement terms:

- His licenses shall be REVOKED
- Agree that this agreement will resolve any and all pending claims or allegations regarding the complaint
- Both parties have entered into this agreement voluntarily and waive their rights to have a public hearing on the complaint, including judicial review.

The Board asked Ms. Rochester if Mr. Theye was advised that this agreement was for both of his professional licenses. She confirmed that was communicated to him, and it is also listed in the Order for him.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to accept the Proposed Settlement Agreement in the matter of Mr. Theye.

Cooper-Bolinskey/Viehweg
Motion carried 8-0-0

VI. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Renewal

1. Reginald Barney, LMHCA, License No. 88000820A

Mr. Barney appeared as requested to discuss his request for an additional renewal for his mental health counselor associate license. He has held his associate license since 2019 and currently works as a pastor helping individuals with PTSD. He has applied for his mental health counselor license and needs his associate license to maintain his current employment.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Barney an additional renewal of his mental health counselor associate license.

Justice/Richardson

Motion carried 9-0-0

2. Patricia Beck, LMHCA, License No. 88000924A

Ms. Beck appeared as requested to discuss her request for an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license. She has held her associate license since 2019. She indicated that when she was licensed, she did her hours incorrectly and had to complete additional hours. She anticipates she will complete her hours in May of 2026. The Board inquired if she is working as a 1099 employee. Ms. Beck stated that she is, however, under supervision and her supervisor has access to all her case notes. The Board discussed 1099 hours with her, and that she will not be able to use those hours towards her clinical license application with the arrangement she described.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Beck an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license.

Justice/Gardner
Motion carried 9-0-0

3. Kirsten Brophy, LMHCA, License No. 88002477A

Ms. Brophy appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her employment termination since she last renewed her mental health counselor associate license. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she felt she was retaliated against and forced out due to the changes that occurred in the office. The Board noted that her paperwork indicated inconsistent care. She stated that she was not aware of what they were referencing and nothing of that nature was discussed with her. She stated that she does currently have a new position under a different supervisor which feels like a better place for her.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Brophy's mental health counselor associate license renewal.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

4. Stephen Hamilton, LMHCA, License No. 88002486A

Mr. Hamilton appeared as requested to discuss his yes response regarding a termination since he last renewed mental health counselor associate license. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that his termination was due to a negative interaction with a child. He stated that he understands he did not handle it correctly and provided an overview to the Board. He discussed with the Board what he would do differently and is working with his supervisor, to have more supervision feedback. The Board discussed supervision with him.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Hamilton's mental health counselor associate license renewal.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

5. Jennifer Henson, LMHCA, License No. 88001435A

Ms. Henson appeared as requested to discuss her request for an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license. She has held her associate license since 2021. She has completed her post-degree hours and is currently in the process of applying to sit for the NCMHCE examination. She has had difficulties passing the NCMHCE license examination due to medical issues, and testing anxiety. She struggles to maintain clients due to these issues. She indicated that she was terminated from her previous employer. The Board discussed examination accommodations and her study plan.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Henson an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

6. Natasha Lowery, LMHCA, License No. 88001534A

Ms. Lowery appeared as requested to discuss her request for an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license. She has held her associate license since 2021. She stated that she has struggled to find a supervisor. Ms. Lowery stated that she works full-time as a school counselor and part-time at Groff Associates. She has been slow in accruing her hours, and she hopes to finish her hours within the next two years.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Lowery an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 8-0-1 Cooper-Bolinsky abstained

7. Alyssa Trelstad, LMHCA, License No. 88001055A

Ms. Trelstad appeared as requested to discuss her request for an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license. She has held her associate license since 2020. She stated that she is almost done with accruing her hours and was delayed due to having children. She currently works as a school counselor and discussed 1099 hours with the Board. She has an interview for a part-time position as a W2 employee as she will have to accrue additional hours.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Trelstad an additional renewal of her mental health counselor associate license.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

B. Reinstatement

1. Lacy Detterich, LMHC, License No 39001872A

Ms. Detterich appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of her mental health counselor license that expired in 2012. She submitted 117 hours of continuing education and a letter for the Board to review. She recently worked in a school system and is currently working at Adult and Child. She has only been observing until her license is reinstated.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Detterich reinstatement of her mental health counselor license.

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

2. John Warner, LCSW, License No. 34004385A

Mr. Warner appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of his clinical social work license that expired in 2012. He provided 47 hours of continuing education and a letter for the Board to review. He stated that he is licensed and works in the state of Kentucky. He indicated that he wished to also work in Indiana as his practice is along the border.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Warner reinstatement of his clinical social work license.

Viehweg/Gardner
Motion carried 9-0-0

C. Application

1. Joel Ales (LSW and LCACA)

Mr. Ales appeared as requested to discuss his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He discussed his time as a serviceman, and his rebuilding after leaving service. Mr. Ales spoke with the Board regarding his self-care and his current job prospects.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Ales to test for both his social work and clinical addiction associate license applications.

Adams/Viehweg
Motion carried 9-0-0

2. Amy Block (LSW)

Ms. Block appeared as requested to discuss her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed her record since 2019 that has since been expunged. She discussed her recovery journey with the Board and her current employment at an IOP clinic.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Block's social work application to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

3. Stephanie Brown (LSW)

Ms. Brown appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and next examination attempt. She provided a study plan for the Board to review. She stated that she has been completing individual tutoring and currently works as a life skills coach at Greenhouse Recovery.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Brown's application to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 9-0-0

4. Shakita Chestnut (LSW)

Ms. Chestnut appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. The Board noted concerns regarding her employment as it appears she has been working since September. She stated that she is only doing case management work under supervision.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Chestnut's application to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

5. Valeree Crossland (LMHCA)

Ms. Crossland appeared as requested to discuss her mental health counselor associate application and background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. The Board noted concerns regarding potential unlicensed practice since she graduated from her program in 2002. She indicated that she was licensed in Kentucky for a period of time, but that license is no longer active as she moved to Indiana. She is currently employed at the Indiana Center for Recovery as an intake coordinator and provided an outline of her duties to the Board. She stated that her supervisor completes the clinical work.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Crossland's application to sit for NCE examination pending submission of the court documentation that shows her diversion agreement has been completed.

Justice/Gardner

Motion carried 7-2-0 Richardson and Cooper-Bolinsky opposed.

6. Tammy Cupp (LMHC)

Ms. Cupp was not present and will be rescheduled to appear.

7. Toni Dickerson (LSW)

Ms. Dickerson appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and why she did not disclose her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed with the Board the impact this incident had on her life and her current employment as a school social worker. The Board discussed unlicensed practice concerns.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Dickerson's social work application and to sit for the social work examination .

Viehweg/Justice

8-0-0 (Gardner not present.)

8. Liliana Embriz (LSW)

Ms. Embriz appeared as requested to discuss her next examination attempt. She provided a study plan for the Board to review. She stated that she is aware of her weak areas and is focusing on improving those sections. She discussed her current employment as a school social worker. The Board discussed unlicensed practice concerns.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Embriz's social work application and to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Gardner

Motion carried 8-0-0 (Justice not present.)

9. Ryan Gill (LMHCA)

Mr. Gill was not present and will be rescheduled to appear.

10. Ross Good (LAC)

Mr. Good appeared as requested to discuss his addiction counselor application and background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He discussed the impact his background has had on his life, and what steps he has taken to prevent repeating the same situation. He stated that he is working as a peer recovery coach and coordinator for the court system. He has been sober since 2023 and discussed his support system and supervision plan.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Good's addiction counselor applicant and to sit to for the addiction counselor examination.

Adams/Viehweg
Motion carried 9-0-0

11. Angel Harris (LSW)

Ms. Harris appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and next examination attempt. She provided a study plan for the Board to review. She discussed her current employment at Parkview and stated that she understands the need for a license. Her position at Parkview has been changed until she obtains her license to practice.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Harris' social work application and to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Richardson
Motion carried 9-0-0

12. Charles Isom (LMHCA)

Mr. Isom appeared as requested to discuss her mental health counselor associate application and why he did not disclose his background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He stated that he is currently employed as a rehab counselor at the Veteran's Administration, and he misunderstood the application questions.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Isom's mental health counselor associate license application to take the NCE examination.

Justice/Richardson

Motion carried 8-0-0 Gardner not present.

13. Richard Keeper (LAC)

Mr. Keeper appeared as requested to discuss his addiction counselor application and background. He provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. He is currently licensed in the state of Kentucky and is employed at Sunrise Recovery.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Mr. Keeper's addiction counselor application.

Adams/Cooper-Bolinsky

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

14. Mallory McCauley (LMHCA)

Ms. McCauley appeared as requested to discuss her mental health counselor associate application and background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She discussed 1099 and W2 employment hours with the Board.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. McCauley's mental health counselor associate application and to sit for the NCE examination.

Justice/Richardson

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

15. Kindsey Poole (LSW)

Ms. Poole appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and next examination attempt. She provided a study plan for the Board to review. The Board asked for clarification on her employment at Kids Count Therapy as she listed her job title as Mental Health Counselor. She explained but stated she is no longer employed. She is employed at IU Health doing virtual therapy. The Board discussed concerns with unlicensed practice. She stated that she does not provide therapy but helps with scheduling patients with their therapist.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Poole's social work application and to sit for her social work examination.

Viehweg/Richardson

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

16. Tupee Ramos (LSW)

Ms. Ramos appeared as requested to discuss her social work application and next examination attempt. She provided a study plan for the Board to review. She discussed her frustration with the application process and stated that English is her second language. She stated she her current employment is in case management, and working towards her Ph.D.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Ramos' social work application and to sit for the social work examination.

Viehweg/Richardson

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

17. Jossie Marie Helmerick (LSW)

Ms. Helmerick appeared as requested with counsel Josh Timmons to discuss the progress of the action against her Indiana Nursing license. Mr. Timmons stated that Ms. Helmerick has gone before the Indiana State Board of nursing and has addressed all the concerns in the order with the exception of one item. In order for her nursing license to no longer be suspended, she would have to practice as a nurse for a period of time. Due to length of time since the suspension of her license, that would require her to complete all NCLEX exams and education again. Since she no longer wishes to return to the practice of nursing, she is requesting the Board accept that she has addressed all other concerns regarding her situation. She provided the Board with updated information from her appearance at the nursing Board at the December 2025 meeting.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Helmerick's social work application to sit for the ASWB Master examination.

Viehweg/Justice

9-0-0

Mr. Richardson stated that while he does work at Community Health Network where Ms. Helmerick is currently employed, he does not know her and he can remain unbiased.

VII. DISCUSSION

There was no discussion items.

VIII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

A. Adetunji Adeyanju (LMHC)

Mr. Adeyanju's application for a mental health counselor license was submitted for review. He submitted a request for waiver of the practicum and internship requirements due to his vision disability. The Board noted that they do not have waiver powers for a requirement of licensure, and he has been advised of this requirement with an earlier application that

abandoned in 2020 that he needed this requirement in a previously submitted application in 2020.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to deny Mr. Adeyanju's application.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

IX. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

A motion was made and seconded to formally adopt the application reviews.

Justice/Adams

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

X. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Hospice Veteran Partnership of Indiana

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Hospice Veteran Partnership of Indiana's application as a continuing education provider.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 7-0-0 (Gardner and Ferguson not present.)

XI. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Carah Rochester presented the report from the office of Attorney General.

She indicated that as we are at the start of the new year, she does not have any data for any complaints filed in 2026. She stated that an updated report will be presented at the March meeting.

She reported to the Board that currently has 154 current open complaints. The average age of open complaints is 7.41 months.

There are currently 31 open litigation cases. The average duration of litigation cases is 9.41 months.

XII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was no old/new business to discuss.

XIII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Cindy Vaught, Board Director IPLA, presented the administrator's report. She stated that for December 2025 the Board received 357 applications, issued 293 licenses, denied 80 due to failing the examination, and abandoned 64 applications.

She stated that for January 2026 the Board received 544 applications, issued 251 licenses, denied 46 due to failing the examination, and abandoned 17 applications.

Currently for Indiana there are 22, 293 licensed professionals, and that license renewal is currently open.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board adjourned at 4:43 p.m. by general consensus.