

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

Minutes March 23, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Mr. Jon Ferguson called the meeting to order at 9:04 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:

Stephan Viehweg, MSW, LCSW, Vice Chair, Section Chair
Kimble Richardson, MS, LMHC, LCSW, LMFT, LCAC, MHC, Section Chair
C. Martin Justice, LMHC, LCAC, Board Designee
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey, LCAC, LCSW
Peter Karalis, MD, Psychiatry Member
Kelli Heuer, Consumer Member

Board Members Not Present:

Jon Ferguson, LMFT, LCAC, Board Chair
Kelley Gardner, LMFT, LMFT, Section Chair
Kathryn Adams, LCAC, LCSW, Section Chair
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.

Cooper-Bolinskey/ Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes are still under review.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

A. Felicia Harris

Cause No. 202601-BHS-0001

Re: Motion for Order to Cease and Desist and Proposed Settlement Agreement

Parties Present:

Respondent not present
Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kimble Richardson
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about January 6, 2026, a Motion to Cease and Desist was filed against Ms. Harris with allegations of practicing without a license and using a protected title without the credential. On or about March 20, 2026, a Proposed Settlement Agreement was reached. Ms. Harris acknowledged that she was working at Hickory Treatment Center without a license and was terminated from that location due to an unrelated misconduct issue. She has agreed to cease practicing without a license.

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

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

B. Eliezer Joseph, LSW, License No. 33013277A

Cause No. 202408-BHS-0059
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kimble Richardson
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about August 29, 2024, the Board voted to place Mr. Joseph's license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 1 year.

- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her employer contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her title and work schedule including the number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education in licensure or ethics.
- Board Order signed by employer.
- Appear before the Board on a Bi-Annual basis.
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence examination.

Mr. Joseph stated that he has met all the terms of his probation, and requests the status be removed. He submitted exhibits A-D for the Board to review. He discussed what he learned with the Board.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Joseph's petition for withdraw of probation.

Cooper-Bolinsky/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0

C. Alyssa Sigler, License No. 88002275A

Cause No. 2024 BHSB 0003

Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg

C. Martin Justice

Kimble Richardson

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinsky

Peter Karalis

Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about January 26, 2024, the Board voted to place Ms. Sigler's license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six months from September 25, 2023.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her employer contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her title and work schedule including the number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education in licensure or ethics.
- Board Order signed by employer.
- One personal appearance before the Board.
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence examination.

Ms. Sigler acknowledged that she was placed on probation for working without a license, and that she completed all the requirements of her probation. She submitted exhibits for the Board to review.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Sigler's petition for withdraw of probation.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

D. Dabney (Skutt) Stark, LMHCA, License No. 88002509A
Cause No. 202408-BHS-0037
Re: Petition for Withdraw of Probation

Parties Present:

Respondent present
Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg
C. Martin Justice
Kimble Richardson
Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey
Peter Karalis
Kelli Heuer

Respondent Witness:

Todd Davis

Case Summary: On or about August 7, 2024, the Board voted to place Ms. Stark's license on the following probation terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than six months from March 25, 2024.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her employer contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her title and work schedule including the number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education in licensure or ethics.
- Board Order signed by employer.
- One personal appearance before the Board.
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence examination.
- Quarterly supervision reports from her supervisor. If not employed she must submit quarterly self-reports.

Ms. Stark stated that she takes responsibility for her unlicensed practice concern, and she has met all the terms of her probation. She discussed the confusion her supervisor

had with how to submit the reports. She stated that she did switch supervisors during this process. The Board noted they only have 1 quarterly supervision report for her.

Mr. Davis was called as witness. He stated he was Ms. Stark's current supervisor. He stated his understanding was Ms. Stark was given misinformation on their company's leadership on who was completing the supervision reports, and who was submitting them for her. He stated that there was an assumption from employment that when she obtained her associate license, that the probation status automatically fell off, but that she has remained under supervision. He discussed her supervision and work duties with the Board. Ms. Stark submitted exhibits A-E for the Board to review.

The Board discussed with Ms. Stark what she learned from the experience.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Ms. Stark's petition for withdraw of probation.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

E. Whitney Thoele

Cause No. 202511-BHS-0040

Re: Motion for Cease and Desist

Parties Present:

Respondent present

Ryan Eldridge, Deputy Attorney General

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg

C. Martin Justice

Kimble Richardson

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey

Peter Karalis

Kelli Heuer

State Witness:

Jack Guanajanto

Respondent Witness:

Amber Murphy

Case Summary: On or about November 18, 2025, a Motion to Cease and Desist was issued against Whitney Thoele with allegations of unlicensed practice. Ms. Thoele stated that she disagrees with the allegation as she has been very careful about what she can do and say regarding her current work. She stated that she currently works doing skills and life coaching.

She stated that in the past she worked at a hospital doing therapist work under the supervision of an Indiana HSPP.

The State called Jack Guanajanto as witness. Mr. Guanajanto is an investigator with the Office of Attorney General's Office. The State submitted Exhibits 1-2 for the Board to review. Mr. Guanajanto stated that Ms. Thoele listed herself as a mental health provider and she has listed services that fall under therapeutic practices. The State submitted Exhibits 3-4 for the Board to review. Mr. Guanajanto stated that her company Be Inspired Facebook page listed that she has previous experience as a mental health therapist. The State commented on how she could have experience as a mental health therapist when she has never obtained a license. Mr. Guanajanto stated that she has been listed as a mental health and wellness coach since 2024.

The State asked Ms. Thoele if she ever referred to herself as a mental health therapist. She stated she has, but she has never called herself a licensed professional. She stated that she has previously worked as a consultant where mental health diagnosis treatments were occurring. She stated during that time she worked in a hospital where she would do intake and helped "bridge the gap". The State inquired if she was aware that a license was needed for the work she was engaging in. She stated that she had an NPI modifier where she could bill her HSPP supervisor and that she could practice with her NPI. The State reviewed the different practices of mental health counseling with her and sought clarification on what practices she provided. The Board inquired into her master's degree. She stated that she has a Master of Psychology, and she has applied for licensure. She stated that she did not get clear guidance on what courses could or could not count. She stated that she struggled with the application process and put a "pause" on getting licensed. She stated that she lists her work as a life coach and was not aware that her company listed her as a mental health therapist. She acknowledged that she was one of the owners of Be Inspired.

Ms. Thoele called Amber Murphy as a witness. Ms. Murphy is co-owner of Be Inspired. She stated that her work is scheduling the clients and is the first point of contact for the clients. She stated that she is clear with the clients that the company provides life coaching and consulting, not therapy. She stated that she and Ms. Thoele have had many conversations on advertising to ensure that they are not promoting counseling services. Ms. Murphy stated she has exhibits she can provide for more context. The State objected that those exhibits have not shared with the State prior to the hearing, and the exhibits were not accepted. Ms. Murphy stated that the business is just her and Ms. Thoele. The Facebook page was created by an RN partner who no longer works for them. She stated that neither she nor Ms. Thoele had updated the page since the RN partner left. She stated that she did not feel that the State presentation of their business is a true reflection of their current work.

The State concluded that Ms. Thoele is working without a license, and even if she is not calling the services a therapy, they fall under the scope of practice. He stated that she has also provided false advertising via her company's Facebook page which is the 1st link when you search for the business. He stated that she does not appear to understand the public protection concern or understand the current practices of the profession.

Ms. Thoele stated that she disagrees with the State, and she is disappointed that her exhibits could not be submitted as it would show that she is not doing what the State is alleging.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Cease and Desist order in the matter of Ms. Thoele.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 6-0-0

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

Cause No. 2023 BHSB 0043

Re: Order to Show Cause

Parties Present:

Respondent not present

Margie Addington, Court Reporter, Accurate Court Reporting

Participating Board Members:

Stephan Viehweg

C. Martin Justice

Kimble Richardson

Dr. Dianna Cooper-Bolinskey

Peter Karalis

Kelli Heuer

Case Summary: On or about March 3, 2026, an Order to Show Cause was issued to Mr. Werdine with concerns that he is not complying with his license probation terms. He was notified via post-mail and email of this hearing. Mr. Werdine has failed to appear. No response has been received by Mr. Werdine.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to issue a Notice of Proposed Default in the matter of Mr. Werdine.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 6-0-0

V. PERSONAL APPEARANCES

A. Renewal

1. Lynn Baker, LMHC, License No. 39000776A

Ms. Baker has failed to appear. She will be scheduled at a later date.

2. Thomas Dabay, LMHCA, License No. 88003026A

Mr. Dabay appeared as requested to discuss his renewal response regarding an arrest. He provided a statement for the Board to review. He stated that he tried to obtain court

documents, but his case has not been entered into the police system and charges have not been filed against him. He stated that the matter was a protest, and that it has not impacted his practice.

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

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0

3. Carolina De Sevilla, LMFTA, License No. 85000595A

Ms. De Sevilla appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she is currently looking to get the matter expunged.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. De Sevilla's marriage and family therapist associate license renewal.

Justice/Cooper-Bolinskey
Motion carried 6-0-0

4. Jenna Fakhoury, LMHC, License No. 39005678A

Ms. Fakhoury did not appear as requested to discuss her yes response regarding discipline in another State. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She obtained a Reprimand in the state of Wisconsin regarding miscommunication of their telehealth regulations.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Fakhoury's mental health counselor license renewal without an appearance.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

5. Jaclyn Gatesy, LMHCA, License No. 88001343A

Ms. Gatesy appeared per her request for an additional renewal cycle of her mental health counselor associate license. She stated that she does not wish to pursue the full LMHC license and wants to retire as an associate. She stated that she is requesting the Board grant her an additional renewal until she retires. She stated that she currently works at an addictions treatment facility.

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

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 5-1-0 Cooper-Bolinskey opposed.

6. Laurence Grant, LMHCA, License No. 88000690A

Mr. Grant appeared per his request for an additional renewal cycle of his mental health counselor associate license. He expressed his frustration with the LMHC application process, that he has attempted multiple times. He stated he needs his associate license for his current work. The Board unofficially reviewed and approved his post-degree hours, but they advised him he would need to submit a new application for approval to retake the NCMHCE examination.

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

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

7. Delli Knox, LSW, License No. 33008764A

Ms. Knox appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she has completed outpatient treatment, attended counseling, and received support from her church. She stated currently she volunteers in hospice facilities.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Knox's social work license renewal.

Cooper-Bolinskey/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

8. Justin Krowel, LMHCA, License No. 88000179A

Mr. Krowel appeared per his request for an additional renewal cycle of his mental health counselor associate license. He stated he is currently studying to pass the LMHC licensure examination that he has previously attempted. He stated that some personal life struggles have prevented him from pursuing licensure. Mr. Krowel stated that in 2024 he had an arrest for public intoxication. The Board does not have any information on this matter at this time. The Board noted that he may need to reappear for that matter when he re-applies to test for the LMHC license or submits his associate license renewal. He discussed the impact, his current work and current supervision with the Board.

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

Justice/Cooper-Bolinskey

Motion carried 5-1-0 Cooper-Bolinsky opposed.

Mr. Krowel stated that he should be off criminal probation May 17th, and then he will be pursuing expungement.

9. Melissa Longley, LCSW, License No. 34006003A

Ms. Longley did not appear. She will be rescheduled.

10. Alisha Ludwig, LMHCA, License No. 88002413A

Ms. Ludwig appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. Ms. Ludwig informed the Board her employer is aware of this incident and that all terms of the court will be completed by June 2026.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Ludwig's mental health counselor associate license renewal and refer this matter to the Office of Attorney General.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

11. Samantha Singhi, LMHCA, License No. 88002451A

Ms. Singhi appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding a work termination. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she struggled with documentation as her priority was ensuring client safety. Ms. Singhi stated that she did not seek help from her supervisor and stated that she struggled to receive support at that employment. She stated she has obtained new employment where she has more support and learned more regarding the importance of documentation.

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

Justice/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0

12. Athena Soleim, LCSW, License No. 34007296A

Ms. Soleim appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that the arrest occurred during a self-checkout, and she takes full responsibility.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve the renewal.

Cooper-Bolinskey/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0

13. Jill Surine, LSW, License No. 33010761A

Ms. Surine appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest and discuss what she has been doing since her license expired in 2024. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she did not renew her license in 2024 as she did not complete the required continuing education, and she had an OWI in 2023. She stated that she has remained sober since the incident and has been working as a retail cashier. She discussed her self-care plan with the Board.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Surine's application for renewal of her social work license.

Cooper-Bolinskey/Richardson
Motion carried 6-0-0

14. Robin VanDeventer, LMHCA, License No. 88000671A

Ms. VanDeventer appeared per her request for an additional renewal cycle of her mental health counselor associate license. She stated that she is currently going through the process of retesting for a mental health counselor license. Ms. VanDeventer stated that she is not currently working but would like to renew for license continuity.

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

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

B. Reinstatement

1. Christina Aguilar, LMHC, License No 39002084A

Ms. Aguilar did not appear. She will be rescheduled.

2. Linda Block Coalter, LCSW, License No 34003684A

Ms. Block Coalter appeared as requested to discuss the reinstatement of her clinical social work license that expired in 2004. She provides a statement and continuing education for the Board to review. She stated that she has her own practice in the state of Kentucky where she is licensed. She stated that she does work for the Veteran's Association and needs to have her Indiana license reinstated. The Board noted that they do not have verification of her ASWB examination that she took in 1994.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Block Coalter's application for reinstatement pending receipt of her official ASWB examination scores.

Cooper-Bolinsky/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

C. Application

1. Tammy Cupp (LMHC)

Ms. Cupp appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background and discipline from another State. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she has completed all terms of the incidents which occurred in 2016 and 2023. Ms. Cupp stated that she did surrender her addictions license in Ohio in lieu of discipline in 2023, but she does maintain her Ohio Clinical Professional Counselor license.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Cupp's application for a mental health counselor license.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 5-0-1 Cooper-Bolinsky abstained.

2. Ryan Gill (LMHCA)

Ms. Gill appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding her background. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated she has been in recovery and attends support groups, therapy, and provided an overview of her recovery journey. She stated that she works at an IOP recovery center, and her supervisor is aware of her background. She will be signing a diversion agreement for her current pending charge. Ms. Gill currently holds an Indiana addiction counselor license which she has not renewed yet.

The Board tabled any action on her mental health counselor associate license application until she completed the renewal for her addiction counselor license and provided a copy of her diversion agreement. Once both items have been submitted, she will need to be rescheduled.

3. Amanda Johnson (LACA)

Ms. Johnson appeared as requested to discuss her yes response regarding an arrest and clarification regarding her current practice. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She stated that she originally applied for the full addiction counselor license, as she did not realize she could not count her post-degree hours without a license. She stated that she was advised by her school that she could

apply directly for the addiction counselor license. The Board discussed unlicensed practice with her.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Johnson to test and upon passing issue her addiction counselor associate license on probation with the following terms:

- Indefinite probation for no less than 3 months.
- Keep the Board up to date with her contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her employer contact information.
- Keep the Board up to date with her title and work schedule including the number of hours worked per week.
- Complete 10 hours of continuing education in licensure or ethics.
- Board Order signed by employer.
- Take and pass the Indiana jurisprudence examination.

Cooper-Bolinskey/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

4. Kelly Milbee (LMHC)

Ms. Millbee appeared as requested to provide clarification regarding her application and her post-degree experience and supervision hours. She has previously submitted two mental health counselor applications. Ms. Millbee stated that she recently completed a practicum and internship at Purdue University under guidance of IPLA since her program did not require a practicum and internship. The Board noted that they will need to review her courses to ensure that the content meets the requirements. They discussed her current practice and stated they will accept her post-degree experience and supervision hours.

Ms. Milbee's application was tabled for further documentation.

5. Erin Todd (LMHC)

Ms. Todd appeared as requested to discuss why she did not disclose her background and to provide clarification on her current practice. She provided a statement and supporting documentation for the Board to review. She said she primarily works telehealth from her home office in Florida, and that her background happened over twenty years ago. She discussed her recovery and current training with the Board.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Ms. Todd's mental health counselor license application.

Richardson/Justice
Motion carried 6-0-0

VI. DISCUSSION

A. Debolina Ghosh (LMHC)

Re: Review of Board's Decision

Ms. Ghosh submitted a request to the Board requesting to waive the requirement of the NCMHCE examination for her mental health counselor application. The Board noted that they do not have the ability to waive the examination requirement, and they are unable to grant her request.

B. Paul Rocco, LMHC, License No. 39003516A

Re: Request for Waiver of Continuing Education

Mr. Rocco submitted a request to the Board to waive his continuing education requirements for this renewal cycle as he is not currently working due to medical hardship.

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to grant Mr. Rocco's request due to a medical hardship.

Richardson/Justice

Motion carried 5-0-1 Cooper-Bolinskey abstained

VII. APPLICATIONS FOR REVIEW

There were no applications for review.

VIII. FORMAL ADOPTION OF APPLICATION REVIEWS

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

Cooper-Bolinskey/Richardson

Motion carried 6-0-0

IX. CONTINUING EDUCATION SPONSOR APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Action Over Silence

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Action Over Silence continuing education application.

Justice/ Cooper-Bolinskey

Motion carried 6-0-0

B. Michelle Patterson at Nicholls State University

Board Action: A motion was made and seconded to approve Michelle Patterson at Nicholls State University continuing education application.

X. REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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

She stated that currently there are 154 consumer complaints open for investigation with a duration of 7.52 months. There have been 29 complaints closed without litigation, 8 complaints opened for litigation, and 3 were sent a warning letter.

There are currently 34 open litigation cases. The average duration of litigation cases is 9.31 months.

XI. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

ASWB put out a statement stance on 1099 work and supervision. The ASWB will be having an education conference in April where supervision will be a talking point.

The Board briefly discussed AI use in research and publications, which will also be a talking point at the conference. They noted that the NBCC recommended that States and Boards have a position statement regarding the use of AI. They noted that some States have implemented laws that label AI counseling as unlicensed practice and is illegal.

XII. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT

Cindy Vaught, Board Director IPLA, presented the administrator's report. She stated that for February 2026 the Board received 528 applications, issued 272 licenses, denied 64 due to failing the examinations, and abandoned 15 applications.

For the year the Board has received 1,072 applications and issued 523 licenses. There are currently 1,147 applications that are pending for the examination with 3,323 pending applications submitted to the Board.

Currently for Indiana there are 22,402 licensed professionals, and that license renewal is currently open. Licenses will expire on April 1, 2026.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and having completed its duties, the meeting of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board adjourned at 4:38 p.m. by general consensus.