

Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling

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MINUTES Board Meeting December 9, 2022

The Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling met on Friday, December 9, 2022, at 12:00 Noon. The meeting was held at the UAB Women and Infants Center at 1700 6th Avenue South, Room 5320 in Birmingham, Ala. Board members attending were Ms. Fallon Brewer (Board Chair), Dr. Sheri Jenkins (member), Ms. Jessa Blount (member), Ms. Katie Nelson (member attending virtually), and Dr. Nathaniel Robin (member attending virtually).

Board members absent were Ms. Kelly East, Dr. Warner Huh, Dr. Leon Dure and Ms. Alicia Gomes. Others in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Mr. Barrett Bowdre (Assistant Attorney General), Ms. Renee' Reames (Recording Secretary), and Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator attending virtually).

Mr. Warren called Board roll and indicated a quorum was present to conduct business. Chairperson Brewer called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. and welcomed everyone attending.

Public Notice of this regularly scheduled meeting was submitted and published on the Secretary of State's website at www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

Chairperson Brewer presented the agenda for the meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Blount made the motion to approve the December 9, 2022, meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins and unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Brewer presented for the Board's approval the minutes from the May 16, 2022, meeting. A copy of the minutes was distributed to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Ms. Blount made a motion to approve the May meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins and was unanimously approved by the Board.

REPORTS

Board Chair: Chairperson Brewer reported that the first renewal of licenses had been completed, indicating that licenses had expired on October 1, 2022. The Board discussed continuing education (CE) required to renew a license if the licensee had held the license for 12 months or longer. The Board discussed developing two CE categories and Chairperson Brewer suggested that Category II CEs be comprised of professional activities, e.g., leadership, teaching, publishing manuscripts, providing clinical supervision, etc. and the licensee engaged in learning. The Board discussed reviewing CE requirements in other States and Chairperson Brewer tabled discussion to a future meeting to allow time to review this matter further.

The Board also discussed modifying the Board's rules to require biennial renewals and biennial CE requirements. Mr. Warren reminded the members about the public notice requirements when modifying Board Rules. Chairperson Brewer tabled discussions to allow time for the members to consider the options of renewing licenses every year or every two years in collecting licensing fees.

Executive Director: Mr. Warren reviewed the financial activities of the Board for the period ending September 30, 2022, and activities for fiscal year 2023 ending November 30, 2022. A detailed line-item report of expenses was provided for the same reporting periods. Mr. Warren reported on the number of active licenses (388). A list of active licenses and expired licenses were presented for the Board's review.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reported that online applications for initial licensing was being developed and he reported that the Board of Nursing and Board of Medical Examiners were notified in writing about the Genetic Counseling Board's jurisdiction.

Legal Counsel Report: Mr. Bowdre reported that he had no business to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Terms: Mr. Warren reminded the Board about Dr. Robin's expired terms and other Board terms expiring in 2023. Dr. Robin indicated that he would continue to serve until replaced to prevent a vacancy on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Emergency Administrative Services Contract: Mr. Warren reported that Emergency Services Contract was scheduled to expire February 28, 2023. The Board discussed approving an emergency contract for administrative services in the interim of having new specifications to solicit Proposals.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made a motion to approve an extension of the administrative services contract for an additional 6 months to allow time for the new specifications to be finalized. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and unanimously approved by the Board.

Proposed 2023 Board Meeting Schedule: Chairperson Brewer reviewed the proposed dates for the Board to meet in 2023. Mr. Warren reviewed the changes to the Open Meetings Act regarding quorums at meetings and restrictions in voting virtually.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made the motion to adopt the following dates for the Board to meet in 2023: February 24th, June 23rd and October 13, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and unanimously approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board briefly discussed reviewing a reduction in licensing fees, establishing grants for

affiliated groups, etc., and hosting Board-sponsored CE program for licensees, etc. Mr. Warren reported that he would inquire about the expenditure of Board funds to establish these programs and provide a list of similar programs by other Boards.

Next Meeting: Chairperson Brewer reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled February 24, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business of the Board, Chairperson Brewer called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and approved unanimously by the members. Chairperson Brewer adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fallon Brewer
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

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