

Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling

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MINUTES Board Meeting February 29, 2024

The Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling met on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 12:00 Noon. The meeting was held at the Women and Infants Center in room #10281 located at 1700 6th Avenue South in Birmingham, AL. The following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Alicia Gomes (Board Secretary), Dr. Sheri Jenkins (member), Dr. Leon Dure (member attending virtually), Dr. Warner Huh (member attending virtually), and Ms. Jessa Blount (member). The Board members absent were Ms. Fallon Brewer (Board Chair), Ms. Kelly East (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Katie Nelson (member), and Dr. Nathaniel Robin. Others in attendance were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator attending virtually), Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary) and Mr. Barrett Bowdre (Assistant Attorney General attending virtually).

Mr. Warren called the Board roll and indicated a quorum was present to conduct business. Ms. Gomes, Board Secretary, chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order at 12:13 p.m. She welcomed everyone in attendance.

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

Secretary Gomes presented the agenda for the meeting.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made the motion to approve the February 29, 2024 meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and, following a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Secretary Gomes presented for the Board's approval of the minutes from November 15, 2023, Board meeting. A copy of the minutes was provided to the members prior to the meeting for their review.

MOTION: Ms. Blount made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins and, following a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

REPORTS

Board Chair: Secretary Gomes indicated that she had no report to present at this time from Chairperson Brewer.

Executive Director: Mr. Warren reviewed the financial activities of the Board for the period ending January 31, 2024. A detailed line-item report of expenses was provided for the same reporting period. He reported on the number of active licenses (326) and presented for the Board's review a list of active licenses to include 5 temporary licenses, and a list of expired licenses and licenses that were inactive.

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

Annual Renewal of Administrative Management Contract: Mr. Warren reported that the Administrative Services had been approved and signed by the Governor and eligible for renewal over the next four years before the January expiration date.

Legal Counsel Report: The Board discussed Act 2023-471 that was intended to allow the Board to conduct all virtual meetings. Mr. Warren explained that in speaking with Attorney Browder, the language was not clear when referencing the Open Meetings Act to allow an exception to all Board members attending virtually. Mr. Browder commented on the options of requesting an Attorney General's Opinion on the matter and/or pursuing new legislation to clarify the virtual meeting language.

MOTION: Dr. Jenkins made the motion to authorize the Executive Director to meet with legislators during the 2024 legislative session to pursue a new Bill for clarity in the language allowing the Board to have all virtual attendance by the members at meetings. The motion was seconded by Ms. Blount and, following a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Board Terms: Mr. Warren reported that Dr. Ananth was interested in serving in the position held by Dr. Robin and planned to submit an application online to the Governor indicating her interest in serving on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Election of Board Officers: The Board discussed that the current officers had been contacted and agreed to serve as an officer if nominated.

MOTION: Ms. Blount made the motion that the current officers remain the same, with Ms. Brewer as Board Chair, Ms. East as Board Vice Chair, and Ms. Gomes as Board Secretary. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins, and following a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Meeting: Secretary Gomes reminded the members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for June 12, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

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

MOTION: Ms. Blount made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jenkins and, following a roll call vote, unanimously approved by the Board. Secretary Gomes adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fallon Brewer
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

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Date Approved by the Board