



Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling

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MINUTES

Regular Called Board Meeting

March 18, 2026

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling met at the UAB Women and Infants Center in room #10373 located at 1700 6th Avenue South in Birmingham, Alabama. The following Board members were in attendance: Ms. Fallon Brewer (Board Chairperson), Ms. Alicia Gomes (Board Secretary), Dr. Leon Dure (member), and Ms. Jessa Blount (member attending virtually), Dr. Marla Daves (member attending virtually), and Ms. Catherine Allen (member attending virtually). There are two vacancies on the Board currently. The necessary quorum of Brewer, Gomes, and Dure were physically present at UAB. Also present virtually were Executive Director Patrick McWhorter, Board Administrator Randy Barrows, and Attorney Barrett Bowdre.

Chair Fallon Brewer called the meeting to order, and the meeting's agenda was approved unanimously, as were the minutes of the previous meeting.

Chair Brewer was brief, with nothing new to report. Executive Director Patrick McWhorter reported that our new administrative services firm, Arete Impact Management, had cleared all hurdles with the Dept. of Finance and are in process of completing the necessary steps to bring all outstanding bills current. He and Board Administrator Barrows presented financials for the previous quarter and reported that almost \$48,000 that had not been carried over from last year's budget had been discovered and were transferred by the budget office into the FY2026 budget, leaving a total of \$308,039.71 in unobligated cash.

McWhorter presented 11 new GC licenses issued during the period of November 3. Vice Chair Gomes moved approval of all new licenses, seconded by Dr. Dure. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Brewer reported the status of board vacancies, with Megan Cochran's appointment being finalized and awaiting only the oath of office, while Dr. Anant's position is pending paperwork completion.

- Vice Chair Gomes presented a proposal for UAB to develop and manage continuing education modules for licenses, with an estimated cost of \$26,000 including a one-time setup fee and ongoing annual costs estimated at \$14,000. The program would require participants to

pay \$35 per person for continuing education credits, with costs projected based on half of licensed individuals completing the course each year. The board approved the interagency agreement with UAB pending budget approval, pending the Executive Director gaining approval of the Legislature to provide in funding in this year and next year's budgets. The Board agreed that the continuing education program would be free for Alabama licensees as a benefit, with non-Alabama participants paying an additional fee. Chair Brewer proposed hosting the program on the Genetic Counseling Program's website and creating a flyer for promotion. The Board decided to remove the cap on the number of continuing education credits per licensee and adjust the budget as needed based on participation. Attorney Bowdre recommended maintaining a cap for liability reasons, suggesting \$24,000 as a potential limit based on four modules. Motion made by Dr. Dure, seconded by Member Allen. Approved by roll call vote unanimously.

- Current high licensing fees charged by ABGC as compared to other states were discussed. The Board agreed to form a committee led by Members Allen and Blount to form a committee to research licensing fees in other states, compare Alabama's fee structure, and report findings to the board, considering the new CEU offering as a member benefit. Motion to approve made by Vice Chair Gomes, seconded by Member Allen. Motion approved unanimously.
- Additionally, the board voted to clarify that the restoration fee of \$250 should cover both the license fee and application fee for expired licenses, not be charged in addition to them. Move to approve by Vice Chair Gomes, second by Dr. Dure, and approved unanimously.
- The board also decided not to provide funding for an out-of-state wellness continuing education conference in Georgia, citing concerns about spending Alabama money on non-CEU activities outside the state. Motion made by

The meeting ended with a decision to remove the \$10 replacement license fee from the website since it wasn't properly listed in the fee schedule. Motion by Vice Chair Gomes, seconded by Member Allen. Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Ms. Fallon Brewer

Board Chairperson