*Alabama Board of Genetic Counseling*
*400 South Union Street, Suite 340*
*Montgomery, AL 36104*
*Phone: 334-851-8919*
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**MINUTES**
**Regular Called Board Meeting**
**June 10, 2026**

A regular 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), with Ms. Meagan Cochran, Ms. Catherine Allen, and Ms. Jessa Blount attending virtually. 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 at 12:05 pm, and by a motion made by Ms. Gomes, seconded by Dr. Dure, the meeting's agenda was approved by roll call vote with Brewer, Gomes, Dure, Allen, Blount, Allen, and Cochran voting in favor. Then by motion made by Gomes, seconded by Dure, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved by roll call vote with Brewer, Gomes, Dure, Allen, Blount, and Cochran voting in favor.

Minutes of the previous meeting, March 18, 2026, were presented. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Ms. Gomes, seconded by Dr. Dure. Voting in favor were with Brewer, Gomes, Dure, Allen, Blount, and Cochran.

Executive Director McWhorter and Administrator Barrows presented a financial report through March 18, 2026, showing the current financial condition of the Board. Mr. Barrows showed that with an annual budget of $175,474, the current unobligated budget balance is $123,409.20. Mr. McWhorter reaffirmed that funds were available to cover the expenses to be incurred in implementing and operating the new continuing education program. In fact, the $40,000 approved by the 2026 Legislature has already been moved into our account to cover all start-up costs. A motion was made by Ms. Allen, seconded by Ms. Gomes, to approve the financial report as submitted.

Chair Brewer brought up a discussion led by Ms. Blount, who had done an examination of licensing fees from other states, noting that their fees tend to be on the higher side but not drastically outside the norm. The board reviewed a comparison of licensing fees across 50 states and found that Alabama's initial application fee of $400 and annual renewal fee of $150 were among the highest, with averages around $219 and $89

respectively. It was noted that while the fees are slightly above average nationwide, this will be the only board providing continuing education, which may justify the cost. Mr. Barrows offered a suggestion that the Board might consider waving the application fee for renewals rather than removing it entirely. No formal action was taken on licensing fees.

New licenses were presented by Mr. Barrows. He reported 503 active genetic counseling licenses and 11 new licenses issued since the last meeting. Mr. Barrows reported that staff are moving forward with implementing an electronic license system where licensees could print their own licenses after renewal, while maintaining wall certificates only for initial licenses. A motion to approve the 11 new licenses presented was made by Dr. Dure, seconded by Ms. Cochran. Voting in favor were Brewer, Gomes, Dure, Allen, Blount, and Cochran.

Ms. Gomes provided an update on the status of the continuing education program, clarifying that the current program will offer free CEUs to Alabama licensees while charging non-licensed participants, with the board covering both licensee costs and platform setup fees. She confirmed that the contract was with the UAB School of Health Professions and awaiting final approval. The goal is to offer four CE classes per year in the upcoming years.

Mr. McWhorter noted that there are currently two vacancies on the Board resulting from expired terms. He mentioned that the Board might consider supporting legislation to modify current law requiring physician-driven board appointments, noting that getting approval from relevant groups would be necessary. He agreed to explore options and report back at the next board meeting. The board appointments were updated, with Kelly East being replaced by Megan Cochran and Dr. Anant's submission for replacement pending approval from the Board of Medical Examiners.

The Board discussed the date of the next Board meeting, with Ms. Gomes indicating that she could not be present on that date. Mr. Barrows suggested he would send an email with alternative dates.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Gomes, seconded by Dr. Dure, for adjournment. Voting in favor of the motion were Gomes, Dure, Allen, Blount, and Cochran. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Fallon Brewer

Mrs. Fallon Brewer
Board Chairperson

10·29·26

Date

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