

[] Minutes
Arkansas Psychology Board
101 East Capitol, Suite 415
Board Meeting
May 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The Arkansas Psychology Board meeting was called to order by the Chair of the Board, Dr. Edward Kleitsch, at 10:10 AM.

ROLL CALL

Board Members present: Ms. Dixie Bryson, Dr. Betty Everett, Dr. Joyce Fowler, Dr. Art Gillaspay, Mr. Skip Hoggard, Dr. Edward Kleitsch, Dr. Jawahar Mehta and Dr. Kevin Reeder.

Staff Members present: Mr. James Ammel, Ms. Maggie Sponer and Ms. Amber Collins-England. Mr. Edward Armstrong was present as the Board's Attorney General Representative.

Dr. Kleitsch informed the Board that Ms. Amy Ford was no longer with the Attorney General's office and Mr. Ed Armstrong will be the Board's acting Attorney General Representative until further notification is received.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Hoggard made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Dr. Reeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

HEARING FOR C # 14-03

The Board began Hearing procedures for C#14-03 at 10:15 am.

Recess/Reconvene

Ms. Dixie Bryson made a motion to recess the hearing for lunch at 12:10 pm. Mr. Skip Hoggard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:10 pm.
The Board reconvened the hearing at 1:00 pm.

Recess/Reconvene

The Board recessed for a break at 2:30 pm.
The Board reconvened the hearing at 2:45 pm.

Recess/Reconvene

The Board recessed to deliberate the evidence that was presented in the hearing at 4:00 pm.

The Board reconvened with a determination at 4:40 pm.

REPORT FROM THE COMPLAINT COMMITTEE

APB Complaint # C-14-03: TURNER, Steffie, Psy.D. Board May 15, 2015, Disciplinary Hearing Action:

PARTIES Several psychologist and psychological examiner licensees employed by the Arkansas Department of Corrections alleged that Respondent psychologist Dr. Turner engaged in sexual activities with a licensed subordinate psychological examiner, while both were employed within the same agency department within the Arkansas Department of Corrections. A hearing was conducted on 05/15/05 regarding the allegations of a 7.07 American Psychological Associations' Ethical Principals violation (Sexual Relationships with Students or Supervisees), as well as various Arkansas Psychological Board Statutes and Regulations relating to an ethical violation. The result of these hearing allegations and produced evidence, including an ADC Internal Affairs investigation of this matter, was the Board's findings that Respondent Dr. Turner did have the requisite supervisory responsibilities over her subordinate licensee while engaging in sexual intimacies with that a subordinate. Accordingly, a violation of APA Ethical Standard 7.07 ("Psychologists do not engage in sexual relationships with students or supervisees who are in their department, agency, or training center or over whom psychologists have or are likely to have evaluative authority") was found to have been established and the hearing resulted in confirmation of the alleged ethical, statutory, and regulation violations.

SANCTIONS: For the violations found, the Board imposed the following sanctions:

1. Respondent is to pay a \$3,000 fine (in lump sum or in installments), to be fully completed before license reinstatement. If the license suspension is to be extended or revocation occurs or subsequent sanctions are imposed, the full fine amount is to be completely paid before any further disciplinary sanctions are imposed (i.e., by no later than June 30, 2016).
2. Respondent's psychologist license is suspended commencing July 1, 2015 (allowing Respondent to arrange suitable transfer of care for any current clients before commencement of the suspension period). No new client relationships are to be established between now and July 1st. No psychological professional services are to be engaged in during that suspension. During the time period between now and July 1st, Respondent's current clinical and/or administrative supervisor at the Little Rock Air Force Base is to verify to the Board that a plan is being implemented for Respondent's client caseload transfer of care to be completed by July 1st (normal supervisory procedures are currently waived during this transfer period). All normal continuing

yearly education requirements, in addition to the specific continuing education provision contained in the sanctions herein, are to be fulfilled during the suspension period.

3. Respondent is to take a continuing education course, APA-qualified and approved by the Board, consisting minimally of 6 “in-person” contact hours (i.e., excluding any on-line CE) concerning ethical principles, with particular emphasis on supervisory responsibilities and boundary issues. Proof of satisfactory completion of the CE course is to be supplied by Respondent to the Board prior to the end of the one-year suspension period. As indicated, Respondent is to submit sufficient information to the Board about the intended CE course for the Board’s approval of that course’s content prior to commencing of that course.

4. Should Respondent’s license be reinstated at the end of the one-year suspension period (or any extension thereof), she will be subject to a one-year period of practice under supervision by a Board-approved supervisor who would be responsible for providing quarterly reports pertaining to the supervision provided and the practice issues addressed, with particular emphasis on, but not limited to, principles of supervision and boundary issues. This supervision is to be minimally one-hour weekly, face-to-face, with a log of the supervision being kept by the supervisor and the supervisee and to be made available at the Board’s request. The Respondent is to supply to the Board-approved supervisor a complete copy of the subsequently prepared Hearing Rulings & Decision, and the approved supervisor is expected to provide acknowledgment to the Board of his/her receipt of that document in order for the Board to be assured that the supervisor is aware of the reason(s) for the supervision and the record-keeping and reporting requirements pertaining thereto. Respondent is responsible for selecting an acceptable supervisor subject to the Board’s approval thereof, and an appropriate Supervision Agreement & Plan shall be submitted to the Board signed and dated by both the supervisor and supervisee after notification of the Board’s acceptance of the supervisor to be utilized. Psychological practice and services are not to be commenced until the Board has both accepted the supervisor and the subsequently prepared Supervision Agreement & Plan.

5. In the 10th month of the one-year suspension period (i.e., in April 2016), Respondent shall subject herself to a full Board oral examination to determine whether she has complied with the rulings of the Board and to the latter’s satisfaction that she has an understanding of ethical principles and APB regulations, with particular emphasis on supervisory responsibilities and boundary issues. As a result of that oral examination, additional sanction requirements might be imposed or the on-going practice supervision period could be truncated.

6. A copy of the Hearing Rulings & Decision shall be placed in Respondent’s general licensure file for review prior to the full Board oral examination indicated herein. Any subsequent violation(s) of the Hearing Rulings & Decision and/or additional ethical principles and/or statutory/regulatory provisions may subject Respondent to further disciplinary proceedings and potential additional sanctions, with consideration of the

current case's Hearing Rulings & Decision being applicable for consideration in such subsequent proceedings.

CREDENTIAL REVIEW

The Credential Review Committee made a fully seconded motion to approve the following credentials:

1. Dr. Lance Dixon's credentials were submitted to the Board for consideration as an Applicant Psychologist.

2. Dr. Jan Harmon's credentials were submitted to the Board for consideration as an Applicant Reciprocity Psychologist.

3. Dr. Whitney Pierce's credentials were submitted to the Board for consideration as an Applicant Psychologist.

4. Dr. Jonathan Smith's credentials were submitted to the Board for consideration as an Applicant Psychologist.

5. Dr. Cathy Staton's credentials were submitted to the Board for consideration as an Applicant Psychologist.

The Board approved all credential review candidates.

ADJOURN

Dr. Gillaspay made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Reeder seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board adjourned at 4:55 pm.