



LICENSING COMMITTEE MINUTES

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A recorded webcast of this meeting is available at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fCCO0uGUvw>

DATE July 21, 2023

MEETING PLATFORM WebEx Video/Phone Conference

TIME 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Members Present: Wendy Strack, Chair, Public Member
Eleanor Uribe, LCSW Member
Dr. Annette Walker, Public Member

Staff Present: Steve Sodergren, Executive Officer
Marlon McManus, Assistant Executive Officer
Rosanne Helms, Legislative Manager
Christy Berger, Regulatory Analyst
Christina Kitamura, Administrative Analyst
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel

Other Attendees: Public participation via WebEx video conference/phone
conference and in-person at Department of Consumer Affairs

1 **1. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum**

2
3 Wendy Strack, Chair of the Telehealth Committee (Committee) called the
4 meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was established.

5
6 **2. Introductions**

7
8 Committee members introduced themselves during role call; staff and public
9 attendees introduced themselves.

10
11 **3. Consent Calendar: Discussion and Possible Approval of January 13, 2023**

12
13 Two amendments were suggested.

14
15 Motion: Approve the January 13, 2023 Committee meeting minutes as amended.

16
17 M/S: Walker/Uribe.

18
19 Public Comment: None

20
21 Motion carried: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstention.

Member	Vote
Wendy Strack	Yes
Eleanor Uribe	Yes
Dr. Annette Walker	Yes

22
23
24 **4. Overview of the Purpose of the Committee**

25
26 The last Committee meeting was held on January 13, 2023. The Committee
27 heard a presentation regarding behavioral health workforce challenges,
28 discussed the practices of pastoral counseling and life coaching, and discussed
29 creating a workforce development action plan.

30
31 The list of discussion topics for future discussion were presented.

32
33 **5. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding the Development of**
34 **a Consumer Outreach Document Defining the Board's Professions**

35
36 At the previous meeting, the Committee discussed creating an outreach
37 document designed to help consumers better understand the types of mental
38 health professionals available.

39
40 Staff worked with the professional associations to develop an overview of each
41 profession. Staff drafted a document, which was presented to the Committee for
42 discussion and approval.

1 Public Comment

2 Ben Caldwell: Social workers currently have a title protection bill moving through
3 the legislature; questioned whether the description of social worker should be
4 tightened in the language to refer to a licensed clinical social worker. Referred to
5 a paragraph that states “To be a social worker a person must have either their
6 bachelor’s in social work (BSW), a master’s degree in social work (MSW) a
7 Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) or a PhD in Social Work.” Currently, that
8 statement is not accurate.

9
10 Rebecca Gonzales, National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter
11 (NASW-CA): Although it is not yet in California statute, the description of social
12 work is appropriate because this is how the NASW and the profession defines it.

13
14 Discussion

15 Strack: Noted that in other sections, the professions are referred to as
16 “licensed.” For consistency, she recommended to reference social workers as
17 licensed clinical social workers.

18
19 Helms: Explained that social work is different than the other professions
20 because some social workers use that title and have a degree, but are not
21 licensed. Will work with NASW-CA on that language and bring edits back to the
22 Committee.

23
24 Motion: Direct staff to work with NASW-CA to adjust the language to social work
25 and bring it back to the Committee for consideration in October.

26
27 M/S: Strack/Walker

28
29 Motion carried: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstention.

30

Member	Vote
Wendy Strack	Yes
Eleanor Uribe	Yes
Dr. Annette Walker	Yes

31
32 **6. Discussion and Possible Recommendation Regarding Workforce**
33 **Development Action Plan**

34
35 At its January 2023 meeting, the Committee discussed creating a workforce
36 development plan that would focus on three main efforts: data analysis, reducing
37 barriers to licensure, and recruitment and retention.

38
39 Any effort in workforce development must be within the scope of the Board’s
40 mandated authority of public protection. Therefore, the focus for the action plan
41 must be on licensure requirements and processes to become licensed.

1 First, barriers must be identified. Second, formulate short-term and long-term
2 goals to assist in workforce development. Additionally, the Committee must also
3 consider the Board's current licensing population to identify any trends that may
4 affect workforce development and retention.

5
6 Board/Staff Discussion

7 Strack: Noted the geographical areas that are dramatically underserved; wants
8 to make sure that the population of therapists reflects the diversity of the state
9 and that the needs of the population are being met.

10
11 Berger: Outlined the work staff is doing on licensing applications, publications,
12 and information on the website to help reduce deficiencies.

13
14 Public Comment

15 Caldwell: Referred to Sean O'Connor's master's thesis on why social workers did
16 not get through the licensure process; indicated that this could be a good starting
17 point when looking at explanations for why people are not completing the
18 licensure process and demographic factors.

19
20 Atkins, California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) and
21 Gonzales, NASW-CA: Thanked the Board for doing this work and offered to be
22 resources to the Board.

23
24 Leslie Lieberman: Commented on the limitations created by only being able to
25 work in non-profit settings (for subsequent interns) and stated that this is a large
26 reason for people dropping out and contributes to the workforce shortages.
27 Urged the Board to consider removing this policy or reconsider the usefulness of
28 the policy.

29
30 Lisa Wenninger: The licensure requirements are obstacles for the associate
31 trying to navigate the system; the length of time that it takes to navigate the
32 system becomes a disadvantage. For example, the communication process of
33 the licensing exam between NBCC and BBS is 60 days.

34
35 Motion: Direct staff to continue to research and develop reports that will assist in
36 constructing workforce development strategies.

37
38 M/S: Strack/Walker

39
40 No further public comments.

41
42 Motion carried: 3 yea, 0 nay, 1 abstention.
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Member	Vote
Wendy Strack	Yes
Eleanor Uribe	Yes
Dr. Annette Walker	Yes

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7. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

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Uribe: Mentoring people going through the licensing process – are there resources?

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8. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

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None

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9. Adjournment

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The Committee adjourned at 10:03 a.m.