State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors November 26, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS:

Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs Richard Joseph Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS Eric DeCriscio, MA, LPC, ACS - Absent Kimberly Early, LSW Erika Evans-Weaver, Ph.D., LMFT, Vice Chair - Absent Andy Gross, LCSW, MSS Ling Dinse, DSW, MSW, LSW - Absent Tiffany Welch, DSW, MSW, LSW - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Shana M. Walter, Esquire, Senior Board Counsel Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel Michael Merten, Esquire, Board Counsel Heather J. McCarthy, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Senior Regulatory Counsel Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Adam J. Williams, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Adrianne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Courtney J. Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Department of State Sarah E. McNeill, Board Administrator Thomas Leech II, Administrative Officer 2 Carlton Smith, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel, Prosecution Division Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State

ALSO PRESENT:

Jill Krahwinkel-Bower, Ph.D., Kutztown University

State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors November 26, 2024

ALSO PRESENT: (cont.)

Ashley Taylor, MMT, MT-BC, Open Space Counseling, Consulting & Wellness

Johanna Byrd, ACSW, JOM, CAE, Executive Director

Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director, National Association of Social Workers, Pennsylvania Chapter

Erica Rhoads, MA, Ph.D., Emerge Counseling Ministries Joy Hammond, BSW, Administrative Assistant & MSW Student

Sara Ansell, LPC

18 Nicole Bialecki, MA, CPT

Samantha Bekisz, MA, LAPC

20 Derrick Cline

Rachel Wilbur-Adams, Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc. (814) 536-8908

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2 State Board of Social Workers,
3 Marriage and Family Therapists
4 and Professional Counselors

November 26, 2024

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11:00 a.m.]

7 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, 8 at 9:00 a.m., the Board entered into Executive 9 Session with Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, 10 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial 11 deliberations on a number of matters currently 12 pending before the Board and to receive the advice of 13 counsel. The Board entered into public session at

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The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
Tuesday, November 26, 2024. Michelle Santiago,
Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, called the meeting to
order at 11:04 a.m.

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[Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and those who continued to participate were giving their

1 consent to be recorded.

Ms. Tully also noted the Board entered into

Executive Session for the purpose of conducting

quasi-judicial deliberations and to receive the

advice of counsel on the matters for which the Board

7

will later vote. 1

8 Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees

9 [Sarah E. McNeill, Interim Board Administrator,

10 provided a roll call of Board members and

11 introduction of attendees. A quorum of Board members

12 | was present.]

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14 Approval of minutes of the October 25, 2024 meeting

15 MS. TULLY:

The first matter will be approval of minutes from the October 25, 2024

18 meeting.

19 Did everyone have an opportunity to

review the minutes? Were there any

exceptions or corrections?

22 | [The Board discussed corrections to the minutes.]

23 MS. TULLY:

Could I have a motion to accept the

25 minutes from the last meeting with that

6 1 change? 2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 3 So moved. 4 MS. BOYER: 5 Second. MS. MCNEILL: 6 7 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, 8 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 9 abstain. 10 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 11 voting on the motion.] * * * 12 13 Report of Prosecutorial Division 14 [Adrianne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board 15 Prosecutor, presented the Consent Agreement for Case 16 No. 21-69-017209. MS. TULLY: 17 18 Based upon Executive Session 19 deliberations, I do believe the 20 Chairperson would entertain a motion to 21 accept the Consent Agreement proposed 22 on Case No. 21-69-017209. 23 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 24 I'll entertain a motion. ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 25

1 So moved. 2 MS. BOYER: 3 Second. 4 MS. MCNEILL: 5 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 6 7 abstain. 8 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 9 voting on the motion. The Respondent's name is Gary 10 Oterro Gallon, LCSW.] 11 12 Report of Board Counsel - Matters for Deliberation 13 MS. TULLY: 14 The first matter for deliberation will 15 be the Matter of Nariesh Paltoo Jr. 16 Does the Board have anything further 17 they would need to deliberate on? 18 I believe, based upon Executive Session deliberations heard earlier, 19 20 the Chairperson will entertain a motion 21 to rescind the provisional denial that 22 had been issued in this matter. 23 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 24 I will entertain that motion. 25 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 1 So moved. 2 MS. BOYER: 3 Second. 4 MS. MCNEILL: 5 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 6 7 abstain. 8 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the motion. Accordingly, the motion will 10 pass and Nariesh Paltoo will be permitted to sit for 11 Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist by Examination. 1 12 13 * * * Report of Board Counsel - Final Adjudications and 14 15 Orders MS. TULLY: 16 The next matter before the Board is 17 18 Kimberly Warne, Case No. 23-69-003904. 19 Does the Board see any reason to 20 reenter Executive Session on this 21 matter? Seeing none. 22 I believe the Chairwoman would 23 entertain a motion adopting the Final 24 Adjudication and Order in the Matter of 25 Kimberly Warne, Case No. 23-69-003904.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 1 I will entertain that motion. 2 3 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 4 So moved. 5 MS. BOYER: Second. 6 7 MS. MCNEILL: 8 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, 9 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 10 abstain. 11 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 12 voting on the motion. Based upon the Board's vote, 13 the Final Order and Adjudication will be accepted in 14 that matter.] 15 * * * 16 MS. TULLY: 17 Moving on to item 5 on the agenda, Lori 18 Simmons, Case No. 23-69-016106. 19 Board had previously entered into 20 Executive Session deliberations, and I believe the Chairwoman would entertain 21 22 a motion to grant the license for Lori 23 Simmons to practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist by Endorsement. 24 25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 I will entertain that motion. 1 2 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 3 So moved. 4 MS. BOYER: 5 Second. 6 MS. MCNEILL: 7 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun, 8 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 9 abstain. 10 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 11 voting on the motion. Michelle Santiago opposed the 12 motion.1 13 * * * 14 Regulatory Report - November Regulatory Status Update 15 [Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, provided a Regulatory Status Report for the month of 16 17 November for the Board's review. 1 * * * 18 19 Regulatory Report - 16A-6923 - Electronic Supervision 20 and General Revisions 21 [Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel, addressed 16A-6923 regarding the general revisions 22 23 package. She noted finalizing the annex and making 24 one revision at the Board's request. She referred to 25 page 8 of the annex under Standards for Supervisors,

noting the addition of the phrase "in conjunction with the supervisee," so the supervisor, in conjunction with the supervisee, shall establish objectives to be achieved by the supervisee during supervision. She also carried that revision to

Chapter 49 page 30.

Ms. Wolfgang informed Board members that she is working on the preamble and is hoping to have that finalized by the February meeting.

Chair Santiago requested an explanation of the word "reserved."

Ms. Wolfgang explained that the section is being deleted but is reserved so that anyone researching knows that there was a provision there for procedural reasons.

Chair Santiago referred to page 59 under (6)(i), where it says the National Certified Counselor Certification, noting the (CC) should be (NCC).

Ms. Wolfgang offered to make that correction.

Chair Santiago referred to (6) (vii), the

Certified Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CCMHC)

certification, noting she did not know the

organization, Academy of Certified Clinical Mental

Health Counselors (ACCMHC). She stated the Certified

Clinical Mental Health Counselor designation also

comes from the National Board of Certified Counselors
and did not know where the Academy of Certified
Clinical Mental Health Counselors came from. She
further noted that CCMHC comes from NBCC.org.

Ms. Wolfgang verified that ACCMHC is inaccurate and would provide the answer in February as to whether they can make that change.

Chair Santiago referred to (ix), the Certified Addictions Counselor credential (CAC) and asked whether the CAC is equivalent to a licensed professional counselor (LPC). She noted concern that they have people who do not have master's level practice certifications serving as supervisors, where people who do not have certifications at the master's level but have certifications at the bachelor's level should not be supervising master's level people toward licensure.

Chair Santiago asked Ms. Wolfgang to look into whether the CAC credential at the master's level from the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB). She explained that it should be discussed with the Board if the answer is no, where they have a non-master's person supervising master's level clinicians into practice when every other certification requires a master's degree.

Acting Commissioner Claggett read a comment in chat stating that Certified Advanced Alcohol and Drug Counselor is the master's level credential for PCB.

Chair Santiago noted the CAC and the CAADC are not the same thing. She further noted they are saying the CAADC is the master's level credential and the Board has it listed as CAC, which is not the master's level credential. She also noted CAC actually does not exist on PCB's website, where something is incorrect at (ix).

Ms. Wolfgang explained that it is reserved, so the Board was deleting the section. She informed Board members that she would go back and figure out the rationale because there is no reason to fix it if it is being deleted. She mentioned that she was not involved in the original drafting and asked whether the Board knows why the section was being deleted.

Chair Santiago mentioned that there were so many people outside of professional counseling that people were being supervised by everybody except for other professional counselors.]

* *

23 Regulatory Report - 16A-6927 - Associate MFT and
24 Associate LPC

25 | [Jacqueline A. Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,

1 noted 16A-6927 regarding associate MFT and LPC has

2 been finalized. She referred to § 48.13(a) and noted

3 adding licensed associate marriage and family

4 therapist (AMFT), subsection (d) notification to the

5 Board, when an AMFT obtains a new supervisor, the

6 AMFT shall notify the Board and provide the resume or

curriculum vitae for the licensee or licensees who

8 provide supervision.

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Ms. Wolfgang also noted the addition in Chapter 48 and Chapter 49 but did not have any other substantive changes. She believed the annex is ready to be sent out as an exposure draft.

Chair Santiago referred to related fields for MFT.

Ms. Wolfgang explained that they did not change the definition and decided to look into opening up a new regulation to specifically address the related fields and closely related fields definition. She mentioned that would be a comprehensive review of all the chapters and did not want to slow down this regulation.]

22 MS. WOLFGANG:

At this time, I believe the Chair would entertain a motion to release an exposure draft of the Proposed Annex at

(814) 536-8908

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                  16A-6927 relating to Associate MFT and
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                  PC to interested parties and
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                  stakeholders for comment.
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   CHAIR SANTIAGO:
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                   I will entertain that motion.
   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
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                  So moved.
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   MS. BOYER:
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                  Second.
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   MS. MCNEILL:
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                  Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,
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                  aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross,
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                  abstain.
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   [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from
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   voting on the motion.]
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   Legislative Report - No Report
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   Report of Board Chairperson - No Report
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   Report of Acting Commissioner - No Report
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   Report of Board Administrator - No Report
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   Review of Applications
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16 MS. TULLY: 1 2 This is an Application for the 3 Associate Professional Counseling 4 License of Brian Nielsen. Does the 5 Board have any reason to reenter 6 deliberations? Seeing none. 7 I believe the Chair would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the 9 Application of Brian Nielsen to 10 Practice as an Associate Professional Counselor. 11 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 12 13 I will entertain that motion. 14 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 15 So moved. MS. BOYER: 16 17 Second. 18 MS. MCNEILL: 19 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, 20 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 21 abstain. 22 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 23 voting on the motion.] * * * 24 25 MS. TULLY:

17 1 Moving on to item 10 on the agenda. This is an Application by Derrick Cline 2 3 to Practice Professional Counseling by Examination. 4 5 Based upon discussions in Executive Session, I believe the Chairwoman would 6 7 entertain a motion to provisionally 8 deny the Application of Derrick Cline. 9 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 10 I will entertain that motion. ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 11 So moved. 12 13 MS. BOYER: 14 Second. 15 MS. MCNEILL: 16 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, 17 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 18 abstain. 19 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from 20 voting on the motion.] * * * 21 22 MS. TULLY: 23 Moving on to item 11 on the agenda. This is an Application by Hal 24 25 Greenblatt to Practice Professional

18 Counseling by Examination. 1 I believe the Chairwoman would 2 3 entertain a motion to provisionally 4 deny this Application to Practice as a 5 Licensed Professional Counselor. CHAIR SANTIAGO: 6 7 I will entertain a motion. 8 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 9 So moved. 10 MS. BOYER: 11 Second. MS. MCNEILL: 12 13 Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, 14 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 15 abstain. 16 [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the motion.] 17 * * * 18 19 MS. TULLY: 20 Moving on to item 12 on the agenda. 21 This is an Application by Vanay 22 Frederick-Ellis. It's actually a 23 reconsideration of a provisional denial that was previously voted on by the 24 25 Board.

19 Based upon discussions within 1 2 Executive Session, I believe the 3 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to 4 rescind the previously voted on 5 provisional denial and grant Licensure 6 as a Professional Counselor by Exam. 7 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 8 I will entertain the motion. 9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 10 So moved. MS. BOYER: 11 Second. 12 13 MS. MCNEILL: 14 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun, 15 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 16 abstain. [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the 17 18 motion. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the 19 motion. 1 20 * * * 21 Applications - Act 41 Review 22 MS. TULLY: 23 Moving on to item 13 on the agenda. 24 This is an Act 41 request by Tomas 25 Casado-Frank \underline{el} to Practice as a

20 1 Marriage & Family Therapist by 2 Endorsement. 3 Based upon Executive Session 4 deliberations, I believe the Chairwoman 5 would entertain a motion to grant the 6 Application of Tomas Casado-Frankel to 7 Practice as a Marriage & Family Therapist by Endorsement. 8 CHAIR SANTIAGO: 9 10 I will entertain that motion. ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 11 So moved. 12 13 MS. BOYER: 14 Second. 15 MS. MCNEILL: 16 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun, 17 aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross, 18 abstain. 19 [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the 20 motion. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the 21 motion. 1 22 23 Miscellaneous 24 MS. TULLY: 25 Moving on to item 14 on the agenda.

This is a Continuing Education

2 Exemption Request submitted by Nicole

3 Stryker. I believe the Chairwoman

4 would entertain a motion to grant the

5 Continuing Education Exemption for the

6 current period.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

I will entertain that motion.

9 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

10 So moved.

11 MS. BOYER:

12 Second.

13 MS. MCNEILL:

14 Santiago, nay; Claggett, aye; Behun,

aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross,

16 abstain.

17 | [The motion carried. Michelle Santiago opposed the

18 motion. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the

19 motion.

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21 Miscellaneous - Travel - AASCB 2025 Annual Conference

22 MS. TULLY:

Moving on to item 15, which is travel

24 to the 2025 Annual Conference February

25 9-11, 2025.

I believe, based upon Executive

2 | Session deliberations, the Chairwoman

3 would accept a motion to approve the

4 travel and the related expenses for Dr.

5 Michelle Santiago to attend the AASCB

Annual Conference in February.

7 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

I do entertain that motion. Could I

9 have a motion?

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 So moved.

12 MS. BOYER:

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13 Second.

14 MS. MCNEILL:

Santiago, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun,

aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross,

17 abstain.

18 | [The motion carried. Andy Gross abstained from

19 voting on the motion.]

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21 [The Board recessed from 10:38 a.m. until 11:50 a.m.]

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23 [A Formal Hearing was held from 11:50 a.m. until

24 12:57 p.m. in the Matter of an Application to

25 Practice as an Associate Professional Counsel by

23 1 Examination of Nicole Bialecki, Case No. 24-69-2 013287.1 3 4 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act, 5 at 12:57 p.m., the Board entered into Executive 6 Session with Sean C. Barrett, Esquire, Board Counsel, 7 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial deliberations on a number of matters currently pending before the Board and to receive the advice of 10 counsel. The Board entered into public session at 11 1:29 p.m.] * * * 12 13 MS. TULLY: 14 I believe the Chair would entertain a 15 motion for Board Counsel to draft an 16 Adjudication and Order consistent with 17 the Executive Session deliberations 18 that were just held in the matter of 19 the Application of Nicole Bialecki. 20 Could we have that motion? 21 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT: 22 So moved. 23 MS. BOYER: 24 Second. 25 MS. MCNEILL:

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                  Santiago, aye; Claggett, nay; Behun,
                  aye; Boyer, aye; Early, aye; Gross,
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3
                  abstain.
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   [The motion carried. Arion Claggett opposed the
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   motion. Andy Gross abstained from voting on the
   motion.]
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   Adjournment
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   MS. TULLY:
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                  I believe the Chair would like a motion
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                  to adjourn.
   CHAIR SANTIAGO:
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                  I would like a motion to adjourn.
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   ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:
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                  So moved.
   MS. BOYER:
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                  Second.
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   CHAIR SANTIAGO:
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                  We are adjourned.
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   [There being no further business, the State Board of
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   Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
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   Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at
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   1:30 p.m.]
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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting.

Rachel Wilbur-Adams,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting Service, Inc.

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 1 2		STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS REFERENCE INDEX
		November 26, 2024
	TIME	AGENDA
	9:00 11:00	Executive Session Return to Open Session
	11:04	Official Call to Order
	11:05	Roll Call of Board Members
	11:05	Introduction of Attendees
	11:06	Approval of Minutes
	11:07	Report of Prosecutorial Division
	11:09	Report of Board Counsel
	11:12	Regulatory Report
	11:31	Review of Applications
	11:38	Miscellaneous
	11:38 11:50	Recess Return to Open Session
	11:50 12:57	Appointment - Hearing - Nicole Bialecki
	12:57 1:29	Executive Session Return to Open Session
	1:30	Motion
	1:30	Adjournment