

**BOARD OF CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK, MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, AND
MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2021
8:00 A.M. EST**

GOTO MEETING ID

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/542993917>

Toll Free Number – 1 877 568 4106

Public Code: 542-993-917

Participants in this public meeting should be aware that these proceedings are being recorded and that an audio file of the meeting will be posted to the board's website at <https://floridasmentalhealthprofessions.gov/meeting-information/>.

I. CALL TO ORDER (TS 00:00:15)

The meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at 8:13 a.m. by Jamie Buller, Acting Chair.

A. Roll Call (TS 00:01:32)

Roll call was conducted by Janet Hartman, Executive Director. Those present for all or part of the meeting included the following:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jamie Buller, LCSW, Acting Chair
Denny Cecil-Van Den Heuvel, PhD, LMFT, LMHC
William Day, PhD, LMHC
Claudia Vicencio, PhD, LCSW, LMFT
Tanya Kraus, LCSW

STAFF PRESENT

Janet Hartman, Executive Director
Ashleigh Irving, Program Administrator
Rebecca Lawrence, Regulatory Supervisor

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

Andrew J. Pietrylo, Jr., Esq., Chief Legal Counsel
Christina Shideler, Esq., Asst General Counsel
Caitlin Harden, Esq., Asst General Counsel

BOARD COUNSEL

Timothy Frizzell, Esq.
Asst. Attorney General

COURT REPORTER

For the Record Court Reporting
Phone: (850) 222-5491
Fax: (850) 224-5316

Ms. Hartman announced that if the video conference was disrupted for technical reasons, the meeting is not cancelled, and everyone should call the toll-free number listed. Ms. Hartman provided the number in the chat.

B. Welcome (TS 00:03:25)

Ms. Buller welcomed everyone to the meeting. She reminded the audience that the proceedings were being recorded and would later be posted on the Board's website.



C. Opening Remarks (TS 00:04:10)

Ms. Buller asked everyone to keep their phones on mute to reduce audio interference.

Ms. Buller informed everyone that we have two new Board members and allowed them to introduce themselves. Dr. Vicencio and Ms. Kraus provided brief

Students or licensees needing verification of attendance were asked to type their name in the chat box and to email documents to Janet.Hartman@flhealth.gov.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES (TS 00:07:19)

A. November 5, 2020 General Board Meeting

The minutes of the November 5, 2020 general board meeting were reviewed, and the following action was taken by the Board:

Motion: by Dr. Day to approve the meeting minutes.
Second: by Ms. Buller.
Vote: unanimous.

III. DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS (TS 00:08:10)

A. Recommended Order

**i. Gerard Kruse, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Case Number 2017-13017
(PCP: Buller, Day, and Roberts)
Represented by Counsel**

Mr. Kruse was present and represented by Carole C. Schriefer, Esq.

Mr. Frizzell provided opening remarks to the Board regarding the recommended order from the Administrative Law Judge which was a dismissal. There have been no acceptations filed by either party. The board is to discuss whether they want to accept the recommendation.

Ms. Schriefer did not have any opening remarks to the board.

Mr. Pietrylo presented the case which charged Mr. Kruse with a violation of section 491.009(1)(k), Florida Statutes (2016-2017) through a violation of Section 491.0111, Florida Statutes (2016-2017) and rule 64B4-10.002(1), Florida Administrative Code.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept recommended order.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

Ms. Schriefer asked that the final order be expedited, and the online record be purged due to the length of the pendency of action due to quorum.

B. Determination of Waiver (TS 00:13:27)



**i. Nathan J. Hoover, Registered Clinical Social Work Intern, Case Number 2018-25646
(PCP: Barlow and Cecil-Van Den Heuvel)
Pro Se**

Mr. Hoover was not present nor represented by counsel.

Mr. Den Beste presented the case before the board which charged Mr. Hoover with a violation of section 456.072, Florida Statutes (2018).

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept the investigative report into evidence, find that the respondent was properly served and has waived her right to a formal hearing, and to adopt material facts set forth in the administrative complaint as the findings of fact of the board.

Second: by Dr. Day.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion: by Dr. Day to adopt the allegation of law in the administrative complaint as the Board's conclusions of law and the conclusions of law as a violation of the practice act.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.

Vote: unanimous.

The Department recommends the following:

- Revocation
- Costs of \$593.55

Motion: by Dr. Day to accept the Department's recommendation and request for costs.

Second: by Ms. Kraus.

Vote: unanimous.

**ii. Gabriel Leonardo Tito, Registered Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, Case Number 2016-08678
(PCP: Buller, Day, Roberts)
Pro Se
(TS 00:21:36)**

Mr. Tito was present. He was not represented by counsel.

Ms. Shideler presented a three-count complaint before the board which charged Mr. Tito with a violation of: Count I-section 491.009(1)(r), F.S. (2012-2016), Count II-section 491.009 (1)(w) through a violation of section 491.0045(3), F.S. (2012-2016), and Count III-section 491.009(1)(w) through a violation of section 491.005(3)(c), Florida Statutes (2012-2016).



Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept the investigative report into evidence, find that the respondent was properly served and has waived his right to a formal hearing, to adopt material facts set forth in the administrative complaint as the findings of fact of the board, and adopt the allegation of law in the administrative complaint as the Board's conclusions of law and the conclusions of law as a violation of the practice act.

Second: by Ms. Kraus.

Vote: unanimous.

The Department recommends the following:

- Revocation
- Fine of \$7,000 payable within one year
- Costs of \$10,554.98 to be paid within one year

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to impose revocation with no fine.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept costs of \$10,554.98 to be paid within two years.

Second: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel.

Vote: unanimous.

C. Informal Hearing

i. Lauren E. Singer, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Case Number 2018-23736 (PCP: Buller, Barlow, and Gray)

Pro Se

(TS 00:55:50)

Ms. Singer was not present nor represented by counsel.

Ms. Harden presented the case before the board alleging violation of section 491.009(1)(b), Florida Statutes (2016) for having a license disciplined in any jurisdiction.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Day accept report into evidence and adopt the findings as fact the investigative report into evidence, find that the respondent was properly served, to adopt material facts set forth in the administrative complaint as the findings of fact of the board, and adopt the allegation of law in the administrative complaint as the Board's conclusions of law and the conclusions of law as a violation of the practice act.

Second: by Ms. Kraus.

Vote: unanimous.

The Department recommends the following:



- Reprimand
- Fine of \$1000 to be paid within one year

Motion: Dr. Day to accept the Department's recommendation.
Second: Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

Motion: by Dr. Day to accept costs of \$386.67 to be paid within one year.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

**ii. Kenneth Earl Fowler, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Case Number 2019-01233
(PCP: Buller and Roberts)
Pro Se
(TS 00:59:38)**

Mr. Fowler was present and was not represented by counsel.

Ms. Shideler presented the case before the board alleging violation of section 491.009(1)(w), F.S. through a violation of section 456.036(1), F.S. Mr. Fowler saw one or more patients with a delinquent license.

Motion: by Dr. Day to accept the investigative report into evidence, find that the respondent was properly served, requested an informal hearing, and to adopt material facts set forth in the administrative complaint as the findings as fact of the board.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

Motion: by Dr. Day to adopt the allegation of law in the administrative complaint as the Board's conclusions of law and the conclusions of law as a violation of the practice act.

Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

The Department recommends the following:

- 1 year suspension
- Fine of \$1000 payable within 1 year
- Laws and Rules continuing education to be completed within 1 year

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Day to accept the fine of \$1,000 payable within 1 year, laws and rules continuing education to be completed within 1 year, and a letter of reprimand.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.



The Department requests cost in the amount of \$254.14 payable within 1 year.

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept costs.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

**iii. Belinda W. Clark, Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern, Case Number 2018-09340
(PCP: Bolhouse and Otis)
Pro Se
(TS 01:17:54)**

Ms. Clark was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was not represented by counsel.

Mr. Den Beste presented the case before the board alleging a two count violation of: Count I-Section 456.072(1)(hh), Florida Statutes (2017) which states being terminated by an impaired practitioner program that is overseen by a consultant as described in s. [456.076](#), for failure to comply, without good cause, with the terms of the monitoring or participant contract entered into by the licensee, or for not successfully completing any drug treatment or alcohol treatment program. Count II-Section 456.072(1)(aa), Florida Statutes (2017) testing positive for any drug, as defined in s. [112.0455](#), on any confirmed preemployment or employer-ordered drug screening when the practitioner does not have a lawful prescription and legitimate medical reason for using the drug.

Motion: by Dr. Day to accept the investigative report into evidence, find that the respondent was properly served, requested an informal hearing, and to adopt material facts set forth in the administrative complaint as the findings as fact of the board.
Second: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel
Vote: unanimous.

Ms. Clark disputed the facts regarding the test presented and requests a formal hearing. Mr. Frizzell recommended that this case be heard by the Division of Administrative Hearings. Mr. Den Beste will provide further instructions to Ms. Clark.

D. Settlement Agreement

**i. Jamie L. Barrett, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Case Number 2014-18612
(PCP: Buller and Gray)
Represented by Counsel
(TS 01:40:27)**

Ms. Barrett was present and represented by Lance O. Leider, III, Esq.

This case was before the board alleging a two-count complaint charging the following violations: Count I-Section 491.009, F.S. and Count II-Section 456.072 (1)(k), F.S.



A settlement agreement was presented to the board with the following terms:

- Appearance
- Reprimand
- Fine of \$500
- 5 hours of continuing education on laws and rules to be completed within 90 days of filing the Final Order
- 5 hours of continuing education on ethics and boundaries to be completed within 90 days of filing the Final Order

Motion: by Ms. Kraus to accept the settlement agreement.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.

Vote: unanimous.

The Department requests costs in the amount of \$2800 payable within 6 months.

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to approve costs.

Second: by Ms. Kraus.

Vote: unanimous.

**ii. Maureen Bond, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Case Number 2016-14260
(PCP: Buller, Day and Roberts)
Represented by Counsel
(TS 01:40:27)**

Susan Bird, Esq. was present to represent Ms. Bond.

This case was before the board alleging a two-count complaint charging the following violations: Count I-Section 491.009(1)(r), Florida Statutes (2015) and Count II-Section 491.009(1)(w), through a violation of 456.057(6), Florida Statutes (2014 and 2015)

A settlement agreement was presented to the board with the following terms:

- Appearance
- Letter of Concern
- Fine of \$500 to be paid within 36 months
- Costs of \$6,035 to be paid within 36 months

Motion: by Ms. Kraus to accept the settlement agreement.

Second: by Dr. Vicencio.

Vote: unanimous.

**iii. Moshe Reznitsky, Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern, Case Number 2019-34416
(PCP: Buller and Roberts)
Represented by Counsel
(TS 01:49:54)**



**iv. Moshe Reznitsky, Registered Marriage and Family Therapy Intern, Case Number 2019-34432
(PCP: Buller and Roberts)
Represented by Counsel
(TS 01:49:54)**

Mr. Reznitsky was present and represented by Manuel Centurion, Esq.

Mr. Den Beste presented both cases together. These cases were before the board alleging a complaint charging the following violations: section 491.009(1)(r), F.S., failing to meet the minimum standards of performance in professional activities when measured against generally prevailing peer performance, including the undertaking of activities for which the licensee, registered intern, or certificate holder is not qualified by training or experience.

A settlement agreement was presented to the board with the following terms:

- Appearance
- Letter of concern
- Fine of \$3,000 payable within 1 year
- Reimbursement of Costs in the amount of \$4,346.04 payable within one year
- 1 hour of continuing education related to trauma bonding, 1.5 hours related to complicated grief, 5 hours related to motivational interviewing, 2.5 hours related to assessing suicide risk, and 5 hours related to ethics and boundaries to be completed 1 year from the date of filing the Final Order

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Day to reject the settlement agreement.
Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

After further discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Day to reconsider prior motion and accept settlement agreement.
Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

E. Voluntary Relinquishment

**i. James R. Crawford, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Case Number 2020-15888
(PCP: Waived)
Represented by Counsel
(TS 02:18:22)**

This case was before the board for violation of section 456.072(1)(k)(v)(dd), F.S.; section 491.009(1)(h)(k)(w), F.S.; section 491.0112, F.S.



Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to accept the voluntary relinquishment for Mr. Crawford and Ms. Meeker.
 Second: by Ms. Kraus.
 Vote: unanimous.

ii. Mary E. Meeker, Licensed Mental Health Counselor, Case Number 2020-25533 (PCP: Waived) Pro Se (TS 02:18:22)

This case was before the board for violation of section 491.009(1)(h)(p)(w), F.S. and section 456.072(1)(k)(z)(dd), F.S.

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to accept the voluntary relinquishment for Mr. Crawford and Ms. Meeker.
 Second: by Ms. Kraus.
 Vote: unanimous.

iii. Nicholas A. Neborak, Registered Clinical Social Work Intern, Case Number 2018-23656 (PCP: Buller and Gray) Pro Se (TS 02:19:22)

This case was before the board for violation of section 491.009(1)(w), Florida Statutes (2018) by violation section 456.072(1)(hh), Florida Statutes (2018).

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to accept voluntary relinquishment.
 Second: by Ms. Kraus.
 Vote: unanimous.

IV. PROSECUTOR’S REPORT (TS 02:20:30)

A. Christina Arzillo Shideler, Assistant General Counsel

Mr. Pietrylo introduced himself as the new manager and Chief Legal Counsel. Ms. Shideler presented the following report to the board:

| Inventory of Cases as of February 3, 2021 | |
|---|----|
| Cases in Hold Status (Status 48) | 0 |
| Cases under legal review (Status 60-68) | 51 |
| Cases awaiting probable cause determination (70 Status) | 31 |
| Total Cases where PC has been found (80 Status) | 2 |
| Cases for Formal Hearing Request (Status 85-88) | 22 |
| Cases Submitted for Board Review (118 Status) | 16 |
| Cases at DOAH (Status 110) | 1 |
| Cases on Appeal (Status 140) | 0 |
| = | |



| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Total Cases open/active in PSU: | 125 |
|---------------------------------|-----|

| Total Number of Cases Older Than One Year | |
|--|-----------|
| 2014 | 1 |
| 2016 | 2 |
| 2017 | 3 |
| 2018 | 22 |
| 2019 | 32 |
| 2020 | 2 |
| = | |
| Total | 62 |

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to continue prosecution of cases one year or older.
 Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
 Vote: unanimous.

V. APPEARANCES (TS 02:23:45)

A. Intent to Dispute

i. Harlan Wallner

Mr. Wallner was present and sworn in by the court reporter. He was represented by Rickey Strong, Esq.

Mr. Wallner is disputing the decision of the board to deny his Registered Mental Health Intern license.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to reconsider denial on Registered Intern license and approve license retroactively to reflect the start date 2/7/2019.
 Second: by Ms. Kraus.
 Vote: unanimous.

B. Application for Licensed Clinical Social Worker

i. Joanne Baum

(TS 02:42:27)

Dr. Baum was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was not represented by counsel. Her application is before the board for discipline on her Colorado license.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Ms. Kraus to approve application.
 Second: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel.
 Vote: unanimous.

ii. Tina Motley

(TS 02:54:34)

Ms. Motley was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was not represented by counsel. Her application is before the board for discipline on her Virginia license.



Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to approve application.
Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

**iii. Massiel Hernandez
(TS 03:03:19)**

Ms. Hernandez was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was not represented by counsel. Her application was brought before the board because her qualified supervisor stated that she has not met the minimum standards of performance in professional activities as measured against generally prevailing peer performance, pursuant to section 491.009(1)(r), Florida Statutes.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Ms. Buller to approve the application.
Second: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel.
Vote: unanimous.

C. Application for Registered Clinical Social Worker Intern

**i. John Clarizio
(TS 03:50:30)**

Mr. Clarizio was present and sworn in by the court reporter. He was not represented by counsel. His application was brought before the board for affirmative responses to discipline history in Arizona and criminal history.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Day to approve application.
Second: by Ms. Klaus.
Vote: unanimous.

D. Application for Licensed Mental Health Counselor

**i. Tiffany Lee Castleman
(TS 04:02:24)**

Dr. Castleman was not present nor represented by counsel. She has answered affirmative to discipline history in Missouri.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Ms. Buller to require appearance at one of next two Board meetings.
Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

**ii. Andrea Valeria Hamilton
(TS 04:07:07 and 4:30:07)**

Ms. Hamilton was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was represented by counsel Rickey Strong, Esq. Her application was brought before the board for review of alternate experience. During discussion, Ms. Hamilton mentioned she was



an unlicensed therapist who has been employed by Riverside Recovery and is currently employed by Suncoast Mental Health Community Center in Tampa, FL. Mr. Strong took a break to speak with his client. Upon their return Ms. Hamilton's supervisor, Suzan Miller, was present and sworn in by the court reporter. Ms. Miller explained that she hired Ms. Hamilton as an unlicensed clinician to see Medicaid and self-paid clients as well as lead group therapy. Ms. Miller also verified that Suncoast does hire unlicensed counselors to provide psychotherapy and only licensed clinicians are allowed to counsel commercial clients.

Following discussion, Ms. Hamilton waived her rights to the 90-day licensure requirement of section 120.60(1), F.S. and the application was tabled for further discussion at the next board meeting to obtain additional information.

E. Application for Registered Mental Health Counselor Intern

**i. Shawn Clark
(TS 04:19:37)**

Mr. Clark was present and sworn in by the court reporter. He was not represented by counsel. His application is before the board because of an affirmative answer to the criminal history question.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to approve the application.
Second: by Dr. Vicencio.
Vote: unanimous.

**ii. Jerry A. Riggs, Sr.
(TS 04:41:41)**

Mr. Riggs was present and sworn in by the court reporter. He was not represented by counsel. His application is before the board for an affirmative answer to discipline history on his Florida Bar license.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to approve the application.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

F. Application for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

**i. Tamara Kay Honickman
(TS 04:56:23)**

Ms. Honickman was present and sworn in by the court reporter. She was not represented by counsel. Her application is before the board because her qualified supervisor stated that she has not met the minimum standards of performance in professional activities as measured against generally prevailing peer performance, pursuant to section 491.009(1)(r), Florida Statutes.

Following discussion, the following action was taken:



- Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to accept supervised experience and approve application.
- Second: by Ms. Kraus.
- Vote: unanimous.

G. Continuing Education Providers

i. International Sports & Fitness Trainers Association, LLC (ISFTA), Provider Number 50-11293

(TS 05:16:46)

- a. 20-739832 - Essential Oils Beyond the Basics for Healthcare Professionals
- b. 20-739828 - Essential Oil Basics for Healthcare Professionals
- c. 20-777036 - Conquering PTSD with Natural Solutions
- d. 20-772154 - Calming the Chaos: Crisis Management through the Holistic Lens

- Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to issue an Order to Show Cause.
- Second: by Dr. Day.
- Vote: unanimous.

ii. University of Miami, School of Medicine, Provider Number 50-2682

- a. An Introductory Course in Aromatherapy (TS 05:29:16)

Tabled to the next meeting with request of an appearance from a member of the provider.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Ratification Lists

i. License Numbers Issued

- Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to ratify license numbers issued.
- Second: by Ms. Kraus.
- Vote: unanimous.

ii. Approved Continuing Education Providers

- Motion: by Dr. Day to ratify continuing education providers approved.
- Second: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel.
- Vote: unanimous.

iii. Committee of One Actions

- Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to ratify Committee of One Actions.
- Second: by Dr. Day.
- Vote: unanimous.

iv. Exemption Applications

- Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to ratify exemption applications approved.
- Second: by Ms. Kraus.
- Vote: unanimous.

v. Elizabeth K. Smith

- Motion: by Dr. Vicencio to approve license issued.



Second: by Dr. Day.
Vote: unanimous.

**B. 2022 Board Meeting Dates
(TS 05:49:45)**

The board discussed the following proposed meeting dates for 2022:

February 10, 2022
May 12, 2022
August 11, 2022
November 10, 2022

After discussion, the following action was taken:

Ms. Hartman will reach out to the board members individually for further discussion.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (TS 05:52:50)

A. Chair

Motion: by Dr. Day to elect Jamie Buller as Chair.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

B. Vice Chair

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to elect Dr. Day as Vice Chair.
Second: by
Vote: unanimous.

VIII. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY (TS 05:55:10)

Motion: by Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel to approve the proposed Delegation of Authority.
Second: by Ms. Kraus.
Vote: unanimous.

IX. FLORIDA INTEREST NETWORK (TS 05:55:15)

Ms. Hartman introduced Dr. Annalynn Schooley to discuss the legislative changes that affect the education requirements for MFT licensure. Representatives from various Florida universities and effected students were also present on the call to ask the board to support a 5-year grace period for initial applicants. This language was included in the new law for MHC applicants, but not MFT applicants. The Florida Interest Network is seeking support from the board in their proposed legislation.

X. REPORTS

A. Board Counsel

i. Rules Report

Mr. Frizzell presented monthly rules reports for November, December and January for Board review.

B. Executive Director

i. Legislative Updates



Ms. Hartman presented an overview of the legislative efforts effecting those professions licensed under Chapter 491. She briefly discussed Senate Bill 818 which for purposes of clinical experience requirements for licensure as a mental health counselor would delete the requirement that a licensed mental health professional be on the premises when a registered intern is providing clinical services in a private practice setting. It would also authorize courts to appoint mental health professionals licensed under ch. 491, F.S., as experts in criminal cases. Ms. Hartman has analyzed this bill emphasizing the other professions listed under chapter 491.

House Bill 941 is a companion, but not an exact replica of the SB 818. It specifically mentions the qualified supervisor and their ability to telecommunicate.

Ms. Hartman told the board there are 9 telehealth bills. The one common factor is the deletion of the audio only clause. She is hopeful this will pass to provide more access to counselors.

The Florida State Legislature is currently in committee weeks and scheduled to convene on March 2, 2021 and adjourn on April 30, 2021.

ii. Financial Report

Ms. Hartman presented the annual reports and projections to the board for review.

iii. Board Appointments

Ms. Hartman welcomed the new board members and thanked all board members for their service. She also stated that we will be looking forward to new board members joining us in the future.

C. Board Chair

No reports.

D. Board Members

There were no reports. Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel asked if there was any information regarding vaccination for mental health professionals. Ms. Hartman directed everyone to <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/> to track updates. She discussed the Executive Order and published directive from Governor DeSantis who has expanded the groups eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Florida beginning March 3. Those eligible residents include:

- Long-term care facility residents and staff;
- Persons 65 years of age and older;
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact;
- K-12 school employees 50 years of age and older;
- Sworn law enforcement officers 50 years of age and older; and
- Firefighters 50 years of age and older

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT (06:23:48)

Jim Akin and Susan Mankita with the National Association of Social Workers Florida Chapter shared their concerns and ideas about interns who may not be able to complete



their requirements or pass the licensure exam within their 5 years as a registered intern. After discussion, it was determined that most concerns would need to be handled through legislative actions.

Dr. Deidra Sanders Burnett, President of the Florida Mental Health Counselor Association, spoke to the board and thanked them for the vital work they are doing. She thanked Dr. Cecil-Van Den Heuvel for providing a 12-hour qualified supervisor training during their virtual summit.

XII. FOR YOUR INFORMATION (TS 06:45:16)

- A. AMFTRB Exam Report
- B. ASWB Exam Report
- C. NCMHCE Exam Report
- D. NASW Florida Newsletter

XIII. ADJOURNMENT (TS 06:47:30)

After no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

