



STATE OF ARIZONA  
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS  
3443 NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 1700  
PHOENIX, AZ 85012  
PHONE: 602.542.1882 FAX: 602-364-0890  
Website: [www.az.gov](http://www.az.gov)  
Website: [www.bbhe.state.az.us](http://www.bbhe.state.az.us)  
E-mail address: [azbbhe@bbhe.state.az.us](mailto:azbbhe@bbhe.state.az.us)

JANET NAPOLITANO  
Governor

CEDRIC DAVIS  
Board Chair

DEBRA RINAUDO  
Executive Director

---

BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS MEETING MINUTES  
February 29, 2008

Members Present: Jose Herrera, Julian Pickens, Laura de Blank, Robert Evans, Kahryn Nix  
Members Absent: Ruth Lee, Diane Brassea, Cedric Davis  
Staff Present: Debra Rinaudo, Executive Director, Marc Harris, A.A.G., Christopher Munns, Solicitor General's Office, Kami Thur, Mary Wilson

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Arizona Board of Behavioral Health Examiners was called to order on February 29, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. with Mr. Herrera presiding.

**2. Roll Call**

See above.

**3. Administrative Hearings**

*A. 2005-0059, Deborah Ritterbeck, LISAC-0428 (suspended)*  
Members reviewed the proposed signed consent agreement.

The professional was properly noticed, but did not appear.

Ms. Thur summarized the facts of the case.

Following review and discussion by members, Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Nix, to accept the signed consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously. See attached roll call.

*B. 2007-0004, Valerie Gale, LPC-1006, LISAC-0575 and LMFT-0134*

Mr. Herrera reviewed the procedures for conducting a formal administrative hearing.

Christopher Munns, Solicitor General's Office, appeared as the Board's legal advisor.

Mr. Harris, A.A.G., appeared on behalf of the State.

Ms. Gale was properly noticed, but did not appear.

Mr. Harris made an opening statement.

Debra Rinaudo, Executive Director, testified on behalf of the Board.

Steve LeGendre testified as the State's expert witness.

State's Exhibits 1 through 16 were admitted into evidence.

Respondent's Exhibit A was admitted into evidence.

Mr. Harris made a closing argument.

Following review and discussion by members, Dr. Pickens moved, seconded by Ms. Nix, to adopt the factual allegations and charges from the Notice of Hearing as findings of fact and conclusions of law. The motion passed unanimously.

Following further discussion by members, Ms. de Blank moved, seconded by Dr. Pickens, to issue the following Order:

- The professional's license is suspended for a minimum of 12 months.
- During suspension, the professional will complete an in classroom 3 semester credit hour graduate level course in behavioral health ethics
- The ethics course cannot be completed via the Internet
- During suspension, the professional shall complete a minimum of 6 continuing education hours in HIPAA and recordkeeping pre-approved by the MFTCC chair or designee
- The professional will pay the Board's assessed investigative costs
- Investigative costs must be paid in full prior to release of the professional from suspension
- When requesting reinstatement of the professional's license from suspension, it is the Board's strong preference that the professional do so in person before the Board. If the professional elects to make this request in writing, the Board shall consider the professional's failure to appear in person when considering whether to reinstate the license subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this Order
- After completion of suspension, the professional's license will be placed on probation for a minimum of 24 months
- The professional shall work only in a agency licensed by OBHL
- The professional shall not maintain any type of private practice
- The professional will receive clinical supervision by an independently licensed behavioral health professional pre-approved by the Substance Abuse Credentialing Committee chair or designee
- The professional will receive a minimum of 1 hour of clinical supervision for every 40 hours worked
- The clinical supervisor shall submit quarterly reports for approval by the Substance Abuse Credentialing Committee chair or designee
- The professional may request early release after a minimum of 12 months if all other conditions of probation have been met
- The professional shall not provide clinical supervision while on probation
- A request for early release must include the clinical supervisor's summary of the clinical supervision that addresses how it has prepared the professional to return to safe and competent practice and endorses the professional returning to private practice
- A request for early release must include the professional's statement addressing her plan for practice changes needed to ensure safe and competent practice

The motion passed unanimously. See attached roll call.

4. **Future agenda items**

None

5. **Call for public comment**

Doug VanGalen addressed the Board regarding his positive impression of Board operations and practice. He noted the Board's thorough discussion regarding the substance of its order so the professional will benefit from the outcome of the formal hearing.

6. **Establishment of future meeting dates**

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2008, at 9:00 a.m., at 3443 North Central Avenue, Room 908.

7. **Adjournment**

Mr. Evans moved, seconded by Ms. Nix, to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

---

Julian Pickens  
Secretary/Treasurer

---

Date