

NORTH CAROLINA PSYCHOLOGY BOARD
Open Session Minutes
March 23, 2022
Special Meeting
Teleconference

The North Carolina Psychology Board met in a special meeting via teleconference on March 23, 2022.

Members present for all or part of the meeting: Helen Brantley, Ph.D., Chair; Stacie MacDonald Jones, M.A., Vice Chair; Lisa Duck, MPH; Susan Hunt, Ph.D.; G. Gail Neffinger, Ph.D.; and Tonya Omar, M.A.

Others present for all or parts of the meeting: Daniel P. Collins, Executive Director; Marc Davis, Staff Psychologist/Investigator; Rebecca Osborne, Deputy Director, and Sondra Panico, Special Deputy Attorney General.

Dr. Brantley reminded Board members that, in accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Board members were directed to identify any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the Board at the meeting and to refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved. Board members were asked to identify any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict of interest with respect to any matters coming before the Board at the meeting, and instructed that, if one arose during the course of this meeting, to articulate it to the Board.

General

1. The Board was provided with an update on development of the Supervisor Training for licensees. Following discussion, the Board determined to extend the training completion deadline date from September 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.
2. In response to a question from a licensee, the Board discussed confidentiality issues related to how mental health records are maintained under NC HealthConnex. Following discussion, the Board provided staff with guidance to provide to the licensee, including providing adequate informed consent to clients as well as possible additional sources of information to contact.

REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion made and adopted by the Board to hold a closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.18(6), the Board went into closed session to discuss personnel matters, following which, it reported:

Legal/Ethical

3. Muhammad, Malik, Ph.D. – ORDER OF SUMMARY SUSPENSION approved and signed on March 23, 2022. The Board received information that Respondent has been convicted of felony conspiracy to commit health care fraud and felony aggravated identity theft and is currently incarcerated and will remain incarcerated for 52 months. Based upon information received by the Board, Respondent defrauded the Medicaid program of at least \$544,067 by creating false diagnoses and medical records and falsely representing to the Medicaid program that he was provided mental health services. Based upon the information received by the Board, the Board finds, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-3(c), that the public health, safety, and welfare require that the Board take emergency action in the form of a summary suspension of Respondent’s license to practice psychology in North Carolina. Respondent’s license to practice psychology is hereby SUMMARILY SUSPENDED. The suspension is effective on March 30, 2022. The suspension shall remain in effect until the Board issues a Final Decision in this matter or until the parties enter into a Consent Order that is a final determination in this matter.



Daniel P. Collins
Executive Director