Alabama Behavior Analyst Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 11:00 AM
100 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama
Commissioner's 5th Floor Conference Room

I. Call to Order — **Leigh Hulsey, Chair**

Leigh Hulsey called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM

Members Present:
Dr. Erich Grommet
Casey Bailey
Francesca Mata
Leigh Hulsey

Members Absent:
Vacant, BCBA
Vacant, Public Member
Rebecca Cornwell

Interested Parties:
Sue Berry, ABAAC Executive Director
Collier Tynes Dixon, ADMH Chief of Staff
Nick Hines, ADMH General Counsel
Senia Powell, ABAAC Administrator II
Lori Adams, Budget Officer
Andrea Hutchings, Director of Legislative and Constituent Affairs

II. Approval of Minutes — **Leigh Hulsey, Chair**

Dr. Erich Grommet motioned to approve the minutes from August 20, 2026, meeting with corrections that Leigh Hulsey made to include the proposal to add a vice chair and treasurer. Francesca Mata seconded, and motion passed unanimously.

III. Introduction of New Member — **Leigh Hulsey, Chair**

Leigh Hulsey introduced Casey Bailey, who was recommended for appointment as a BCBA member to the council during the last meeting. Casey provided a brief introduction about herself and shared her passions for working as a BCBA and serving on the council.

IV. Financial Report — **Lori Adams**

Lori Adams provided an overview of the FY 26 budget and reported most expenditures have been paid, but the final numbers will not be available until mid-November. She shared the FY 27 budget and provided an estimated amount per category and noted that $120,000 will be reflected after the budget revision is completed. Lori Adams also reviewed the cash revenue report for January 2026 to September 14, 2026, and the cash reconciliation report showing a balance of $497,036.

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V. Update on Applications **Sue Berry**

Sue Berry provided the total and average applications received in 2026 and included a count for the number of active behavior analysts for each year since 2022. Sue Berry informed the council that behavior analysts due to renew their licenses in 2026 will be emailed a reminder of the dates for renewals, which will begin October 1.

Suspension of Agenda

Leigh Hulsey announced the need for an interim vice chairperson to conduct the Executive Session due to her physical absence.

Francesca Mata motioned to temporarily suspend the agenda, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

Francesca Mata motioned to nominate Dr. Erich Grommet as the interim vice chairperson, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

Francesca Mata motioned to reconvene the regular meeting, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

VI. Executive Session **Leigh Hulsey, Chair**

Francesca Mata motioned to enter executive session to address complaints updates, recommendations for new members, and to review applicants which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Roll call vote was passed unanimously. The council entered executive session at 11:30 AM.

Francesca Mata motioned to close the executive session, which was seconded by Casey Bailey and passed unanimously. The council returned from executive session at 12:46 PM.

a. Complaint Updates
   i. Francesca Mata motioned to continue the request for monthly updates by Sue Berry for case 2024, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.
   ii. Francesca Mata motioned to close case 2025, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.
   iii. Francesca Mata motioned for clarification of the BACB supervision list of the five RBTs and 2 BCBAs during the allegation period for case 2026-04, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

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iv. Francesca Mata motioned to continue requesting court updates and BACB response for case 2026-06, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.
v. Francesca Mata motioned to ask complainants if the allegations had been brought to the attention of the BACB and the payor and to provide responses from each for case 2026-07, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

b. Recommendation for New Members
   i. The council voted to recommend Nia Arnold-Cotchery to the Commissioner for the Public Member seat on the council. Francesca Mata made the motion, which was seconded by Casey Bailey. Vote taken, motion passed unanimously.

c. Applicants for review
   i. Francesca Mata motioned to request more information on applicant J.G.'s answer to her self-report of a criminal violation on her application. If she appropriately reported a history of criminal violation, then continue processing the application. If she reported no history of criminal violation, then request clarification as to why she had not been forthcoming. The motion was seconded by Casey Bailey and passed unanimously.

VII. Other business/Discussion

a. Dr. Erich Grommet motioned to affirm approval of the 18 applicants submitted since the last meeting on August 20, 2026, which was seconded by Francesca Mata and passed unanimously.
b. Dr. Erich Grommet provided a summary of his feedback on the CMS Applied Behavior Analysis Toolkit, highlighting areas of support and concern for Alabama. He requested council members provide feedback to him. He will finalize the document for all the council members to sign prior to submission to the Commissioner.
c. Leigh Hulsey provided verbal consent for her digital signature to be added to the minutes and other documents she has approved for Alabama Behavior Analyst Advisory Council. Nick Hines stated that this was acceptable.

VIII. Adjournment **Leigh Hulsey, Chair**

With no further business, Francesca Mata made the motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Casey Bailey and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 PM. The next ABAAC meeting will be held on October 15, 2026, at 11:00 AM, in the Commissioner's conference room at ADMH.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leigh Hulsey, Chairperson Date

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