

## Special Session Meeting

Date: 1/26/24

Location: RSA Union Building North Union Street, Suite 536 Montgomery AL 36104,

Members Present:

Ken Atkins, Ashley Nichols, Doris Hill, Stephanie Stoll, Karen Radar (via Zoom)

Member Absent: Lauren Powell

Public Member: Karen Smith-Representative of Wilcox and Barfoot-Attorney employed by the Legislature

With a quorum present, the chairperson called the meeting to order at 11:43 PM

Jessica Arevalo motions to accept, seconded by Doris Hill, all ayes unanimous.

1. Recommendation of Sunset Review Committee to dissolve the ALBALB. We need to have a plan before 2/7/24 to present to Wilcox and Barfoot. We need to formulate the best plan we think can work with good information and options to consider.
  - Two questions to consider: Are we interested in remaining an independent board? or Would we prefer to be housed under another licensing board?
- A. Independence of Board: The intention of the ALBALB has always been to become independent. Currently, we have ADMH, if we build capacity under ADMH, this gives us the opportunity to become independent going forward.
  - Potential conflicts of interest with DMH: Funding for Autism/Consumers
  - Ethically we need to remain an independent board. Doris Hill motions to remain an independent board, Stephanie Stoll seconds, all ayes unanimous.
- B. Option-Discussion of going with another board such as the Psychological Board as an option. We would have to consider being a sub-board, and how it would change the makeup of their board, look at re-evaluating after a year, and if they would issue a new license for BCBA's.
- C. Option-Offer to them that we will get it together, give us time/ a year, let us find the funding, and hire an administrative assistant, etc.
- D. Option-Move out from DMH and go on our own.
  - Discuss that we have had no funds to hire anyone to help us.
  - Issues to consider: Licenses come in all year long, revision of statutes, ethical complaints, advertising, more relevancy in the state, no person to answer phones, communicate with AAIAC, approaching psychology board.
  - Many things have compromised the board's position. We weren't created until 2016 and one of the last 5 states to get insurance reform in 2019. We are all volunteers and have not had the opportunity to hire someone. Once we meet someone from DMH, and invite them to learn more about the board, there seems to be turnover.
  - The future of the board-5 year plan: University programs in AL, public awareness, recruitment, registering continuing education providers, and maintaining our autonomy.
  - Further discussion to continue as we are now as this will give us more time, we would need to hire someone as an administrative assistant. Anna McConnell has an office

space for the potential employee. We will need to research the line item regarding funding.

- Immediate Plan of Action-( A)Contact the executive director at the psychology board to see if they would be open to considering the ABALB as a sub-board, (B) Contact Anna McConnell to discuss the timeline for hiring an administrative assistant; (C) Consider becoming an independent board and the costs entailed.

Jessica Arevalo makes a motion to request more time and investigate the line item regarding funding, seconded by Stephanie Stoll, all ayes unanimous.

2. New potential BCBA member applicants discussed. Jessica Arevalo made a motion to approve Lauren Elliott, seconded by Karen Radar, all ayes unanimous. Jessica Arevalo will notify Laren Elliott and have her send her resume to the board.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:00PM

The next scheduled board meeting is on 2/16/24 at the Department of Mental Health, Autism Services Region V Conference Room, 2100 River Haven Drive, Suite 210 Birmingham, AL 35209

*Jessica Arevalo*

Signature of Secretary:

Date: 1/26/24

Signature of Chairperson:

*Jessica Arevalo*

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