



South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors &
Marriage and Family Therapists

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South Dakota Board of Examiners for Counselors & Marriage and Family Therapists
Via Videoconference
August 28, 2026

President Amy Hartman called the meeting to order at 9:08 am central and determined a quorum.

Board Members Present via Videoconference: Hande Briddick, Erin Davis, Cynthia Goehring, Mary Guth, Amy Hartman, Stacy Solsaa.

Board Members Absent: Maureen Gustafson and Jeff Wangen.

Others Present via Videoconference: Matt Althoff, Cabinet Secretary; Jennifer Stalley, Executive Secretary; Natalie Young, Administrative Assistant; Kody Kyriss, Board Legal Counsel, Department of Social Services; Erin Handke, Assistant Attorney General; Tracy Mercer, Department of Social Services; Trisha Dohn, Member of the Public; and Bob Mercer, KELOLAND Media Group.

Motion to approve the proposed agenda by Guth. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Hartman asked for comments from the public. Secretary Althoff expressed his appreciation to the Board members for their service and dedication to the work of the Board.

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2026, by Davis. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.**

Motion to accept the financial report as of July 31, 2026, by Solsaa. Seconded by Briddick. **Motion carried.**

Motion to go into executive session for the purposes noticed at 9:18 am by Guth. Seconded by Goehring. **Motion carried.**

Hartman declared the Board out of executive session at 10:01 pm.

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2025-24 by Goehring. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.**

Motion to authorize a settlement agreement or move to a hearing if the offer is not accepted in Complaint 2026-01 by Goehring. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Motion to move Complaint 2026-02 to a hearing by Guth. Seconded by Davis. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-07 by Solsaa. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.**

Motion to authorize a settlement agreement or move to a hearing if the offer is not accepted in Complaint 2026-08 by Goehring. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-10 by Solsaa. Seconded by Briddick **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-11 by Solsaa. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-12 by Guth. Seconded by Davis. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-13 by Goehring. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-14 by Davis. Seconded by Briddick. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-15 by Guth. Seconded by Goehring. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-16 by Guth. Seconded by Briddick. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-17 and send a letter to the National Board for Certified Counselors by Davis. Seconded by Goehring. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-18 by Davis. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Motion to dismiss Complaint 2026-19 by Goehring. Seconded by Briddick. **Motion carried.**

Motion adopt the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Final Order in the Matter of the Application of Sam Gaster as an LPC by Solsaa. Seconded by Goehring. **Motion carried.** Briddick Recused.

Motion adopt the State's proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Final Order in the Matter of the Professional Counselor Licensing Status of Shane Larson with grammatical changes by Goehring. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.** Briddick Recused.

The Board discussed the Counseling Compact implementation timeline. Staff is working on finalizing a data sharing agreement to be able to fully participate in the compact.

The Board reviewed the Criminal History Review Process for criminal background checks.

Motion to adopt the Criminal History Review Process for determining Compact eligibility by Guth. Seconded by Solsaa. **Motion carried.**

Hartman and Young provided an update on the AASCB Meeting and the Compact Annual Meeting.

Davis and Solsaa provided an update on the NBCC Annual Meeting.

The Board conducted the hearing in the Matter of the Application of Emily Gunn for Licensure as an LPC. Gunn did not appear for the hearing at the time and place noticed for the hearing.

Motion to sustain the determination that Emily Gunn must retake the national exam to reactive her expired license or complete the application process from the beginning by Solsaa. Seconded by Guth. **Motion carried.**

Stalley and Young provided a timeline for 2026 license renewal. Renewal opens October 1st and ends November 30th with a reinstatement period the month of December. All renewals must be completed online.

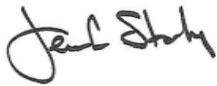
Stalley provided an office update. Stalley reported all Board sets are appointed. Stalley informed the Board of an issue with the limitations on the supervision of marriage and family therapists to a licensed professional counselor-mental health or licensed marriage and family therapist as a supervisor.

Tracy Mercer provided an update from DSS.

The Board announced its next meeting is scheduled for October 2, 2026, at 9:00 am (central) via Zoom. The Board will also meet on December 11, 2026, at 9:00 am (central) via Zoom.

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 am by Briddick. Seconded by Goehring. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,



Jennifer Stalley, Executive Secretary