

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
INFORMAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
March 27, 2009
MINUTES**

- CALL TO ORDER:** An Informal Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Counseling (“Board”) convened on Friday, March 27, 2009, at 12:30 p.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mary Lou Argow, Chair
Natale Ward
- STAFF PRESENT:** Patricia L. Larimer, Deputy Executive Director
Peter Opper, Adjudication Specialist
- MATTER SCHEDULED:** **Aaron Blanchette, LPC Applicant**
Case No.: 123849
- DISCUSSION:** Mr. Blanchette failed to appear before the Committee in person in accordance with a Notice of the Board dated February 13, 2009, to consider his application for licensure as a professional counselor, and to inquire into allegations that grounds exist to deny his application. Mr. Blanchette was not represented by counsel. The Committee fully discussed the allegations contained in the notice.
- CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Ms. Ward and duly seconded by Ms. Argow, the Committee voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation in the matter of Aaron Blanchette. Additionally, she moved that Ms. Larimer and Peter Opper attend the closed meeting, because their presence in the closed meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.
- RECONVENE:** Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of § 2.2-3712 of the Code, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its findings.
- DECISION:** Upon a motion by Ms. Ward, and duly seconded by Ms. Argow, the Committee

made certain recommended Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and voted to recommend to the Board that Mr. Blanchette's application be denied.

ADJOURNMENT: The conference adjourned at 12:50 p.m.