

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
FORMAL HEARING
MINUTES**

November 5, 2021

Department of Health Professions
Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive
Board Room 2
Henrico, Virginia 23233

Matter: **Melea Caldwell, Applicant for Residency in Counseling**

Attorney: n/a
Case No.: 193898

Call to Order: A panel of the Board of Counseling convened on November 5, 2021 at 1:02 p.m.

Board Members Present: Johnston Brendel, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, Chairperson
Barry Alvarez, LMFT
Angela Charlton, Ph.D., LPC
Bev-Freda Jackson, Ph.D., Citizen Member
Gerard Lawson, Ph.D., LPC, LSATP
Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Citizen Member
Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT
Terry Tinsley, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT
Tiffinee Yancey, Ph.D., LPC

Establishment of a Panel: With nine (9) members present, a panel of the board was established.

Board Counsel: James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General
Christa Samuels, Assistant Attorney General

Board Staff: Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director
Christy Evans, Discipline Case Specialist
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director
Jordan Mudd, Executive Assistant

Court Reporter: Renee Cordero Larkin, Veteran Reporters

Witnesses on Behalf of the Respondent: None

Parties on Behalf of the Commonwealth: Emily Tatum, Adjudication Specialist, APD

Witnesses on Behalf of the Commonwealth: None

Preliminary Matters: Respondent's Exhibits A, B and C were accepted and admitted into evidence.

Discussion: Ms. Caldwell appeared in person, without legal counsel. The Board received evidence and sworn testimony regarding the allegations contained in the

Notice dated September 24, 2021 and an Amended Notice and Statement of Allegations mailed on November 1, 2021.

Closed Session:

Upon a motion by Dr. Jackson, and duly seconded by Dr. Yancey, the Board voted to convene a closed meeting pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(27) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter. Additionally, she moved that James Rutkowski, Jaime Hoyle, Christy Evans, Charlotte Lenart, Jordan Mudd and Christa Samuels attend the closed meeting because their presence was deemed necessary and would aid the Board in its deliberation.

Reconvene:

Having certified that the matters discussed in the preceding closed session met the requirements of §2.2-3712 of the Code, the Board reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

Decision and Vote:

Dr. Yancey moved that the Board of Counseling deny Ms. Caldwell's application for licensure to practice as a resident in professional counseling. The basis for this decision will be set forth in a final Board Order which will be sent to Ms. Caldwell at the address of record. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jackson and carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

The Board adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

The decision shall be effective upon the entry by the Board of a written Order stating the findings, conclusions and decisions of this formal hearing panel.

DocuSigned by: 	11/10/2021
<small>F76EB08DFF22458...</small> Johnston Brendel, Ed.D., LPC, LMFT, Chairperson	_____
Virginia Board of Counseling	Date

DocuSigned by: 	11/10/2021
<small>E858AEB08A9F4A4...</small> Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director	_____
Virginia Board of Counseling	Date