

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING  
FORMAL HEARING  
MINUTES  
February 5, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Consistent with Amendment 28 to HB29 and the applicable provisions of § 2.2-3708.2 of the Freedom of Information Act, the Board of Counseling ("Board") convened a virtual formal hearing on February 5, 2021 at 12:56 pm via WebEx.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Johnston Brendel, LPC, LMFT, Chairperson  
Barry Alvarez, LMFT  
Jane Engelken, LPC, LSATP  
Natalie Harris, LPC, LMFT  
Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Citizen Member  
Holly Tracy, LPC, LMFT

**BOARD COUNSEL:** James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jamie Hoyle, Executive Director  
Christy Evans, Discipline Case Specialist  
Charlotte Lenart, Deputy Executive Director

**COURT REPORTER:** Victoria Burnside of Veteran Reporters

**RESPONDENT:** Athena Staik, LMFT  
License #: 0717001136  
Case #: 181112

**WITNESSES ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT:** N/A

**PARTIES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH:** Emily Tatum, Adjudication Specialist, APD

**WITNESSES ON BEHALF OF THE COMMONWEALTH:** Kevin Wolfe, Senior Investigator, DHP

**DISCUSSION:** Athena Staik, LMFT appeared in person before the Board, without legal counsel, and fully discussed the allegations contained in the Notice of Formal Hearing dated January 6, 2021. The Board received evidence and sworn testimony regarding the allegations contained in the Notice.

**CLOSED SESSION:** Upon a motion by Ms. Harris, and duly seconded by Ms. Engelken, 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, Ms. Harris moved that Ms. Hoyle, Ms. Evans, Ms. Lenart and Mr. Rutkowski 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:**

Upon a motion by Ms. Engelken, and duly seconded by Ms. Tracy, the Board made certain findings of fact and conclusions of law, and voted to suspend Ms. Staik's right to renew her LMFT license.

**VOTE:**

The vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Board adjourned at 3:30 pm.

*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.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Johnston Brendel, Chairperson

02/19/2021  
Date

for   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jaime Hoyle, Executive Director

02/19/2021  
Date