

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
INFORMAL CONFERENCE MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: A Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Counseling (“Board”) convened on January 27, 2023 at 10:30 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, Board Room 1.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Evans, Discipline and Compliance Case Manager, Board of Counseling
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division

APPLICANT: **Alec Spergel, LPC Applicant**
Case No.: 217551

PRELIMINARY MATTER AND DISCUSSION: The Chairperson noted that the time was 10:55 a.m. and Alec Spergel was noticed to appear before the Committee at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Tatum advised that the Notice was sent to the applicant’s address of record with the board via certified and first class mail, and a copy was emailed to the applicant. Based on information provided by Ms. Tatum, the Chairperson determined that proper notice had been provided to Alec Spergel and the informal conference would proceed in their absence.

CLOSED MEETING: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to convene in 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 of Alec Spergel, LPC Applicant. Additionally, she moved that Christy Evans attend the closed meeting because her presence 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 of Virginia*, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to deny Alec Spergel's application for licensure to practice as a professional counselor. The motion carried.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on the applicant., unless the applicant makes a written request to the Board within such time for a formal hearing on the allegations made. If service of the Order is made by mail, three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference

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DANIELLE HUNT
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Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Special Conference Committee of the Board of Counseling

2/1/2023
Date

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Jennifer Lang
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Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Counseling

2/2/2023
Date

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
INFORMAL CONFERENCE MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: A Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Counseling (“Board”) convened on January 27, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, Board Room 1.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Evans, Discipline and Compliance Case Manager, Board of Counseling
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division

APPLICANT: **Esther Miles, Resident in Counseling Applicant**
Case No.: 220204

PRELIMINARY MATTER AND DISCUSSION: The Chairperson noted that the time was 11:15 a.m. and Esther Miles was noticed to appear before the Committee at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Tatum advised that the Notice was sent to the applicant’s address of record with the board via certified and first class mail, and a copy was emailed to the applicant. Based on information provided by Ms. Tatum, the Chairperson determined that proper notice had been provided to Esther Miles and the informal conference would proceed in their absence.

CLOSED MEETING: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to convene in 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 of Esther Miles, Resident in Counseling Applicant. Additionally, she moved that Christy Evans attend the closed meeting because her presence 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 of Virginia*, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to deny Esther Miles' application for licensure to practice as a Resident in Counseling. The motion carried.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on the applicant,, unless the applicant makes a written request to the Board within such time for a formal hearing on the allegations made. If service of the Order is made by mail, three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference Committee shall be vacated

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DANIELLE HUNT
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Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Special Conference Committee of the Board of Counseling

2/1/2023

Date

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Jennifer Lang
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Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Counseling

2/2/2023

Date

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF COUNSELING
SPECIAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
INFORMAL CONFERENCE MINUTES – JANUARY 27, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: A Special Conference Committee (“Committee”) of the Board of Counseling (“Board”) convened on January 27, 2023 at 11:30 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia, Board Room 1.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Maria Stransky, LPC, CSAC, CSOTP

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Evans, Discipline and Compliance Case Manager, Board of Counseling
Emily Tatum, Sr. Adjudication Specialist, Administrative Proceedings Division

APPLICANT: **Shawndra Umbarger, LPC Applicant, RIC Applicant**
Case Nos.: 210125 and 215019

PRELIMINARY MATTER AND DISCUSSION: The Chairperson noted that the time was 11:35 a.m. and Shawndra Umbarger was noticed to appear before the Committee at 11:30 a.m. Ms. Tatum advised that the Notice was sent to the applicant’s address of record with the board via certified and first class mail, and a copy was emailed to the applicant. Based on information provided by Ms. Tatum, the Chairperson determined that proper notice had been provided to Shawndra Umbarger.

The Committee reviewed and considered Ms. Umbarger’s request for a continuance, emailed to staff at 10:55 p.m. on January 26, 2023. Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to deny the request for a continuance and determined that the informal conference would proceed in Ms. Umbarger’s absence.

CLOSED MEETING: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to convene in 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 of Shawndra Umbarger, LPC Applicant, RIC Applicant. Additionally, she moved that Christy Evans and Emily Tatum attend the closed meeting because their presence 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 of Virginia*, the Committee reconvened in open session and announced its decision.

DECISION: Upon a motion by Ms. Stransky, and duly seconded by Ms. Hunt, the Committee voted to deny Shawndra Umbarger’s application for licensure as a resident in counseling and deny the application for licensure as a professional counselor . The motion carried.

ADJOURN: With all business concluded, the Committee adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

As provided by law this decision shall become a Final Order thirty (30) days after service of such Order on the applicant,, unless the applicant makes a written request to the Board within such time for a formal hearing on the allegations made. If service of the Order is made by mail, three (3) additional days shall be added to that period. Upon such timely request for a formal hearing, the decision of the Special Conference

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Danielle Hunt, LPC, Chairperson
Special Conference Committee of the Board of Counseling

2/1/2023
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Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Virginia Board of Counseling

2/2/2023
Date