

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors was held in-person in Room 127CW, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY and via teleconference on February 20, 2026.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Hutchins, Chair
Dr. Charles Pemberton, Vice Chair
Joellen Marion
R. Kyle May
Lauren Muir (joined at 10:02)
Wm. Jake Roberts (joined at 11:23)
Dr. Hannah Coyt (joined at 10:06; off camera and unable to vote)

DPL STAFF

Stephanie Hilson, Administrative Specialist Senior
Robert Brossart, Administrative Specialist Senior
Chasity Wray, Administrative Specialist Senior
Gabriel Dent, Administrative Section Supervisor
Kristen Lawson, DPL Commissioner
Lyndsay Sipple, Staff Advisor

MEMBERS ABSENT

LEGAL COUNSEL

Sara Janes, OLS

OTHER

Dawn Hinton, KCA
Jessica Pipakslı
Shamyia

Quinn Hurt
Kevin Snellen

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hutchins called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Dr. Pemberton will Chair the meeting since he is in-person and Chair Hutchins in virtual.

MINUTES

Chair Hutchins made a motion to accept the January 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. May seconded the motion which carried.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

January 2026 financial report was reviewed. No action is required.

DPL REPORT

DPL Administrative Support – Board Administrator role adjusting with S. Hilson-Robinson leaving the Department. Mr. Robert Brossart will take over as a full-time Board Administrator for KBLPC. DPL Leadership will assist KBLPC with coverage and filling the vacancy.

Commissioner Lawson reports the Legislative session has been busy.

HB 455 – Bill on AI; KBLPC on target with their AI statement recently released. OLS made comments and representative was favorable to changes.

HB 634 – Bill on Mental Health Wellness exam, promoted by Dept of Insurance. Requiring insurance to cover one mental health wellness a year.

NEW BUSINESS

KCA Update – Dawn Hinton and Molly Halpin will be in Orlando next week for AASCB. Ms. Hinton reported webinars are going strong. Mandated courses are well attended. KCA February e-news will be sent in the next couple of days. KCA working on contract for 2027 Conference. Keynote speakers for 2026 conference are being contacted. Dr. Pemberton stated KBLPC will be releasing information highlighting Supervision Agreement Regulations and asks KCA to ensure these items are highlighted within their KY Law Course and Supervision Course. KCA will share KBLPC communication with KCA Members. KCA will be offering one-hour CE Benefits to members, and they could collaborate with KBLPC to share the highlights. KBLPC will continue informational session following the Board Luncheon at the Annual Conference.

Change in Administrative Roles – See DPL report.

Counseling Compact Update – DPL is creating a work group for Interstate Compacts. Two rules were passed by the Rules Committee and have been posted for Public Comment. These items were posted on lpc.ky.gov and emailed to all licensees.

- Conversion to home state license
- Consistent Credentialing

DT Correspondence to Board – The Board reviewed an email from an LPCC regarding postgraduate, pre-independent licensure, residency program to ensure oversight of supervisees and experience. Board Members to review email within Board material.

BYT Refund Request – Mr. May made a motion to approve the return of a duplicate payment. Motion seconded by Chair Hutchins, and with Mr. Roberts absent, the motion carried.

JS Refund Request – Mrs. Hutchins made a motion to deny a refund request for JS. Motion seconded by Ms. Marion, and with Mr. Roberts absent, the motion carried.

Spring Board Retreat – The Board Retreat is currently scheduled for 4/23/26-4/24/26, but there is a schedule conflict with the Board Administrator.

Mrs. Hutchins made a motion to move the KBLPC Board Retreat to May 6- 7, 2026, Mayo-Underwood Building Frankfort, KY. Motion seconded by Ms. Marion, and with Mr. Roberts absent, the motion carried.

Board Member Emails – Board Members are receiving emails from licensees to their personal emails. It was reiterated that Board members delete and alert Board Administrator, or respond stating they need to contact LPC@ky.gov.

HB657 – KBLPC's statute on the FBI background check was filed on February 16, 2026, by Representative Deitz. No action required.

OLD BUSINESS

NBCC/ Jurisprudence Exam – table to March

Scope of Practice Relating to Assessments – table to March

Supervision Agreement Training Requirements – Discussion on sending a notice highlighting existing statutes and regulation relating to supervision agreement requirements to KY Law and KY LPCC-S program sponsors approved over the last twelve (12) months requesting an update

to program material in all future trainings immediately. Mrs. Hutchins made a motion to disseminate Supervision Agreement Training Requirements to approved KY Law and LPCC-S CEU training providers and post as appropriate on the website. Motion seconded by Ms. Muir, and with Mr. Roberts off camera. Discussion was had to include the information in the FAQ and Mrs. Hutchins agreed to draft something for the next meeting. None opposed and the motion passes.

Supervision Agreement Remediation – table to March

AASCB Conference - table to March

Mr. Roberts made a motion to enter closed session at 11:31 a.m., pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c), (f) (j) and (k) regarding deliberations of quasi-judicial bodies at which information protected by federal and state law may be discussed, to discuss applications, complaints and legal matters/litigation. Mr. May seconded the motion, which carried, and the board entered closed session at 11:32 a.m.

Mr. May made motion to come out of closed session at 12:34 p.m. Ms. Marion seconded the motion which carried. Dr. Pemberton announced the Board was back in open session at 12:35 p.m. No action was taken during the closed session.

REGULATIONS Committee

Next meeting is on February 27, 2026. March 9, 2026, Regulations Committee Meeting will be canceled and rescheduled.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Applications Committee makes the following recommendations as its motion for approval:

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA)

Pauletta Marie Aleisa, Emily Amin, Kelli Raelynn Bennett, Ileana Boldo, Angie Bratcher, Elizabeth M Brock, London Anastasia Burnley, Geneva Campbell, Bobby Takoda Coleman, Casey Allen Collier, Erin Connors, Paige Brouillette Corder, Jonathan Cottrell, Regi Dayle Cundiff, Jennifer R Davis, Melissa Corinne Dooley, Shonda Marie Floyd, Shamyia J Frazier, Mary Alyce Furlong, Shyona Denise Gaines, David M Gamble, Amanda Nichole Hall, Haley Nicole Hall, Ronald J Hobbs, Ashley Nicole Huffman, Vivian Rose Jeffries, Eliza Mae Kho, Leandra Nichole Lapoint, Beverly McDonald, Lauren Ashley McDowell, Jada Marie Morton, Christopher Howard Murray, Melissa Lea Najpaver, Krystal Lane Philpot, Sheryl Annette Rice, Mikayla Nicole Rogers, Bryton Spicer, Brandon Dean Tudor, Anne Marie Wallace, Rebecca Ann Wells

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)

Kayla Lynn Avery, Alyssa Berry, Gregory Lee Bohner, Erica Dawn Bone, Buddy Thomas Braden, Katie M. Brewer, Paris Brown, Jeanie Lynn Camacho, Steven Kyle Cardwell, Emily Cherchio, Rachel Louise Clausen, Miranda Paige Cook, Jessica Greene, Cody Jordan Griggs, Hannah Elizabeth Guanipa, Maleeyah Kolya Gumbs, Andrew N Hadley, Juanita Carol Hagan, Brooke Elizabeth Hasl, Gwendolyn S. Hinton, Sheerah Neal Keith, Taylor Nicole Kinman, Emily Ann Locke, Charlotte Louise Marlow, Sherrita Lenett Mercer, Elizabeth Rosanna Middleton, Dionysia Chizoba Okeh, Rebecca Ann Pierce, Addison Edgar Sayre-Adona, Megan Silvestri, Victoria Nicole Sims, Amber Marie Stewart, Sherri Sullivan, Melanie Kim Summers, Heather Mary Diana Vaughn

Applications Committee makes the following recommendations as its Motion for **denial**:

Licensed Professional Counselor Associate (LPCA)

JF, DB (Supervision Agreement), MS (Supervision Agreement)

Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC)

LB, JB, AE, GC, KW, SZ, BS, MQ, TG,

Mr. May seconded the Applications Committee's recommendation, the motion carried.

Ms. Marion made a motion to send a cease-and-desist letter to CM and approve application with conditions. Motion seconded by My. May and carried.

Ms. Marion made a motion to accept Course 421, Evaluation Techniques for Counselors as a course that will fulfill Assessment, appraisal, and testing of individuals (Area 5); and request a letter from the school advising that Course 401. The Counseling Profession transitioned into the current clinical mental health counseling program with course instruction that included the ACA Code of Ethics before they will recommend approval that the course fulfills Professional orientation to counseling and ethics (Area 9) for 2024-KBLPC-00012. Motion seconded by Mr. May and carried.

CEU APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Mr. May made a motion to accept the CEU Applications Committee's recommendations for approvals and denials. Motion seconded by Mrs. Hutchins, the motion carried.

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Complaints Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 2024LPC-00032: Dismiss for Complainant's failure to maintain communication with the Board or produce sufficient evidence for Board to prosecute without a witness.
- File board complaint against the Respondent in 2024LPC-00032, D.H. for violation of 201 KAR 36:040. Section 5(1)(d) for failure to cooperate with the Board investigation and by not furnishing in writing a complete explanation to a complaint.
- 2025LPC-00049: Dismiss due to Respondent's proof of supervision as evidenced by Respondent's supervision logs and therapist meeting notes.
- 2025LPC-00065: The license expired on 12/31/2025. Hold complaint open pending any attempt to reinstate or re-apply for licensure since the Board loses jurisdiction while the license is expired.
- 2025LPC-00076: Board Administrator to request proof of completion of Respondent's listed trainings (e.g. certificates). Acknowledge receipt of Board notice from current supervisor and request the Respondent provide the Board with a supervision plan that includes training on distance counseling and billing. Proof of completion and submission of supervision plan is due in advance of the March 19, 2026, Complaints Committee meeting.
- 2025LPC-00078: Refer to investigator to define the professional role between the intern and the LPCC in the work setting.
- 2026LPC-00001: Dismiss.
- 2026LPC-00002: Refer to investigator to obtain documentation regarding Respondent's conflict of interest disclosure to the parties, signed informed consent by the parties, and termination rationale, investigate the Respondent's dual treatment of the Complainant's partner as a client, and confirmation/explanation of texting interactions located on p 15 of complaint material.

QUARTERLY REPORTS/ SELF REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE

- 2024LPC-00044: Advise Respondent they are in compliance with the Agreed Order's requirement to obtain a mental health evaluation; however, note that the Agreed Order requires that Respondent follow all treatment recommendations, which includes continuation of medication management and engaging in therapy services. Request confirmation that Respondent engaged in therapy services and the date those services began before March 19, 2026, Complaints Committee meeting so the board knows when to expect the letter of compliance from the provider, which will be due 6 months from date Respondent initiated treatment.
- 2025LPC-00036: Acknowledge receipt and acceptance for compliance with the terms of Agreed Order.
- 2025LPC-00066: This complaint was dismissed at the 1/21/26 meeting but additional documentation was requested in relation to that complaint. Acknowledge receipt of requested documentation which is accepted as compliance with the Board's request. Note the board appreciates licensee's prompt response and will take no further action.
- CORRESPONDENCE: Respond that the Board does not have jurisdiction on criminal matters.
- 2025LPC-00033: Acknowledge receipt and thank licensee for the report of compliance with Board's recommended CE training.
- COMPLAINT ON LPCA APPLICANT: The Complaints Committee does not have authority to proceed with the complaint because the individual is not currently licensed by the board. Refer the complaint to the Applications Committee for consideration as it contains information that may relate to an application for licensure.

Mr. May made a motion to accept the Complaints Committee's recommendations. Motion seconded by Ms. Muir, and with Chair Hutchins abstaining, the motion carried.

The Complaints Committee makes the following additional recommendation:

2024LPC-00043 –Dismiss the complaint for lack of documentation or evidence by the complainant or the employer; and,

Refer the named Respondent in 2024LPC-00043, J.B. for a fitness for duty evaluation pursuant to 201 KAR 36:050. Section 6. to ensure the licensee is fit for duty.

Mr. May made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendation. Chair Hutchins seconded the committee's recommendation, and with Mr. Roberts abstaining, the motion carried.

The Complaints Committee makes the following final recommendation:

2024LPC-00049 – Mr. Roberts made a motion to dismiss the complaint as an employment issue which is outside the scope of the Board's authority and that there was no abandonment because the Respondent was not acting in a clinical supervisory role. Motion seconded by Dr. Pemberton and with Mr. May abstaining, the motion carries.

LEGAL COUNSEL

ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

Mr. May made a motion to accept 2024-KBLPC-00004 Order of Dismissal. Motion seconded by Ms. Muir, and the motion carried.

Mr. May made a motion to accept 2024-KBLPC-00003 Order of Dismissal. Motion seconded by Ms. Muir, and the motion carried.

Mr. May made a motion to accept 2024-KBLPC-00012 Counteroffer of Settlement. Motion seconded by Ms. Marion and the motion carried.

PER DIEM

Mr. May made a motion to pay per diem for today's meeting as well as the following days:

- Denise Hutchins: 2/6/2026 (Regulations Committee Meeting), 2/11/2026 (Meeting with Board Counsel and Board Administrator), 2/18/2026 (Meeting with Board Counsel and Board Administrator), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)
- Charles Pemberton: 1/23/2026 (Regulations Committee Meeting), 2/6/2026 (Regulations Committee Meeting), 2/13/2026 (CEU Committee Meeting), 2/18/2026 (Meeting with Board Counsel and Board Administrator), 2/19/2026 (Complaints Committee Meeting), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)
- Robert May: 1/8/2026 (Reviewed CEU Applications), 1/14/2026 (Reviewed Complaints), 2/12/2026 (Reviewed CEU Applications), 2/13/2026 (CEU Committee Meeting), 2/18/2026 (Reviewed Complaints), 2/19/2026 (Complaints Committee Meeting), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)
- Hannah Coyt: 1/29/2026 (Review applications), 2/5/2026 (Board Discussion with Board Admin. & Counsel), 2/16/2026 (Review Applications with Board Admin.), 2/19/2026 (Applications Committee Meeting), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)
- Joellen Marion: 01/23/2026 (Applications Review), 01/27/2026 (Applications Review), 2/6/2026 (Regulations Committee Meeting), 02/10/2026 (ASD Research for Memo), 02/11/2026 (ASD Research for Memo), 2/16/2026 (Applications Review), 2/17/2026 (Applications Review), 2/18/2026 (Applications Review), 2/19/2026 (Applications Committee Meeting), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)
- Lauren Muir: 1/8/2026 (Applications Committee Meeting), 1/14/2026 (Applications Review), 2/17/2026 (Applications Review), 2/18/2026 (Applications Review), 2/19/2026 (Applications Committee Meeting), 2/20/2026 (Board Meeting)

Ms. Marion seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Mr. May made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:54 p.m. Motion seconded by Ms. Marion and the motion carried.



Ms. Denise Hutchins, LPCC-S
Board Chair
Kentucky Board of Professional Counselors