

Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists



Spring 2025 Edition

A Word From The Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS:

Daniel Reeser, LMFT, Chair
Chung-Fan Ni, LPC, Vice Chair
Tom Ayala, LPC
Lori Henry, LMFT
Aaron Green, CNA, Public Member
Audrianna Gurr, LPC
Tara Hare, LPC

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Todd Younkin, *Executive Director*
LaReé Stashek, *Policy Advisor*
Blake Ballweber, *Licensing Manager*
Allison McGonagle, *Compliance Specialist*
David Oliveros, *Investigator*
Courtney May, *Investigator*
Joel Ratcliff, *Investigator*
Arieana Henry, *Licensing Specialist*
Justine Boen, *Licensing Specialist*
Nick Flores, *Office Specialist*
Anne Doak, *Administrative Specialist*

As the days get noticeably longer, we see more sunshine, and plants bloom into brilliant colors, I have been reflecting on transitions and observing how our daily lives are a mix of consistency and constant change. At the Mental Health Regulatory Agency, transition is a daily reality. Watching individuals transition from college graduate to associate to licensee is a rewarding experience, as well as helping others to join the community of Oregon Licensed Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists. Here are some updates on transitions and activities since our last newsletter.

We have been very fortunate recently to add to our Licensing team - Blake Ballweber has joined the MHRA as our Licensing Manager, coming to us from the Oregon Employment Department. Blake brings proven experience in developing teams, improving processes, and effecting excellent customer service in a regulatory environment. He has been able to make an immediate impact and has added value to our team. Welcome, Blake!

The 2025 Legislative session is in its 4th month. We have now passed the deadline for most bills to transition from one house to the other (House to Senate; Senate to House), so we are getting our first look at what bills are still alive in the process and which ones appear to be dead (for this session, anyway). We continue to track and inform the Board on bills of interest which are still at play. These include HB 2016, which would impact how the BLPCT displays historical discipline cases on its website, and HB 2387, which clarifies the ability of licensees of certain boards (BLPCT is one) to provide services if they hold a psilocybin service facilitator license issued under ORS 475A.325. We also are monitoring the progress of our budget bill and remain optimistic to receive funding for a new licensing system. At this time it appears HB 3351, which would have enacted the Interstate Counseling Compact, will not be passed this session.

I'd like to welcome our new members, Aaron Green, Audrianna Gurr,

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A Word From The Executive Director, Continued

and Tara Hare, who attended their first Board meeting on Friday, April 4th. You can read more about their backgrounds below. I also want to thank our outgoing members – Matthew Hatch, Albert Parramon Morodo, and Andrea Redeau – for their selfless contributions to the Board and its licensees. Thank you!

Welcome New Board Members

Aaron Green, Public Member. I am dedicated healthcare professional with 15 years of experience as a CNA and a strong passion for improving nursing practices. As the President of the Oregon State Board of Nursing and a long-time SEIU board member, I have advocates for fair policies, better working conditions, and quality patient care. Currently completing my Bachelor's in Psychology at Capella University, I plan to pursue a Master's in Marriage and Family Therapy or Clinical Mental Health Counseling, with the long-term goal of earning a PsyD in Clinical Psychology. I have a deep passion to end the stigma associated with mental health and encourage all health care workers to get mental health. My aim is to support healthcare workers through evidence-based care and advocacy.



Audrianna Joy Gurr is currently in her 20th year as a therapist and 16th year in private practice as a licensed professional counselor, seeing individuals



and groups via telehealth and in person. She has conducted over 15,000 therapy sessions in her practice. She has worked in community mental health since 2005 and has received official citations of thanks from Portland Police and the FBI for her work in stopping human trafficking. Since 2009, she has been a Certified Addictions Therapist and a Daring Way™ Facilitator (Brené Brown) since 2013.

Since becoming a mother, she has done specialty-focused work in the perinatal communities using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) skills, among other methods. Now that she is officially in the perimenopause cusp—whew, pass that fan, please—she is leaning toward becoming the support she wishes she had as she experiences her menopause journey. She has written a book, *'I'm Still Hot! Finding Sanity and Empowerment in Menopause'* and is working to create a greater supportive community for others on this journey.

Audrianna was born in small town Idaho and so far, has made her way through 40 countries, escaping the identity of being a potato farmer's daughter. Previously, she worked for several years, stateside and overseas, in international education and international relations. She has an MA in International Relations from University of Essex, UK and an MS in Counseling from Portland State University. She currently lives in Portland, Oregon with her teen sons, chef husband and pandemic pet twin cats.

Tara Hare is a Licensed Professional Counselor and has worked in community mental health for more than 17 years, 9 of those in a supervisory capacity. Tara has supported the development of more than 20 emerging clinicians through either master's level internship supervision or licensure supervision for professional counselor and marriage and family therapist associates. She has worked with children through adults, couples, and families. Tara's focus is to support her community and to provide inclusive and accessible care to everyone she encounters.



Welcome New Board Members, Cont.

Tara has a Trauma Informed Care certification from Portland State University and advanced training in Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). She has organized and facilitated both internal and com-

munity-based supportive responses to critical incidents. Tara has also provided several training courses to clinicians around trauma informed care, navigating grief and loss, and clinical supervision.

Administrative Rulemaking

On April 9, 2025, the Board filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the following rule amendment:

Creates new rule to set optional Board member compensation equal to ORS 171.072(9).

- Adopt OAR 833-001-0030: Creates new rule to set Board member compensation equal to ORS 171.072(9) for performance of official duties, which is in addition to other allowable reimbursement for travel or other expenses. Allows members to decline compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

On April 9, 2025, the Board filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the following rule amendment:

Implements Senate Bill 1552, petition for predetermination based on criminal conviction, fee, and definitions.

- Amend OAR 833-010-0001: Removes unused terms and adds new and clarifying definitions, including “petitioner” for licensure predetermination based on criminal history. Updates the definition of regionally accredited institution (accrediting agency) to conform with a July 2020 change to federal rule that removed the distinction of “regional” versus “recognized” accrediting agencies.
- Adopt OAR 833-020-0300: Establishes procedures for filing of petition for licensure predetermination based on criminal conviction. Sets forth filing requirements, expiration, disclosure requirements, review process, reconsideration, and other provisions.
- Amend OAR 833-070-0011: Establishes petition for licensure predetermination fee of \$125.

The agency requests public comment regarding the

above two proposals on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule’s substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business. Please email your comments to la-ree.stashek@mhra.oregon.gov or mail them to the Board’s office at 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 120, Salem, OR 97302. All comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 21, 2025.

On April 8, 2025, the Board filed a Permanent Administrative Order for the following rule amendment (effective April 8, 2025):

Repeals sanction schedule and adds incremental violation provision for continued practice following license/registration lapse.

- Amendment to OAR 833-050-0131: Removed the schedule that sets forth minimum disciplinary action the Board will take when a former registered associate allows their registration to lapse and continues to practice unregistered in violation of the law. Added a provision that the Board may treat each 90-day increment of unlicensed practice (or any part thereof) as a separate violation for purposes of imposing a sanction.
- Amendment to OAR 833-075-0020: Removed the schedule that sets forth minimum disciplinary action the Board will take when a former licensee allows their license to lapse and continues to practice unlicensed in violation of the law. Added a provision that the Board may treat each 90-day increment of unlicensed practice (or any part thereof) as a separate violation for purposes of imposing a sanction.

***Please note that this does NOT alter the professional responsibility of a licensee or registrant to renew on time in order to maintain their practice authorization. Failure to renew within the allowed

Administrative Rulemaking, Cont.

grace period will result in license or registration expiration, and a new application must be submitted to become licensed or registered again. The purpose of this rule amendment is to promote consistency and transparency in sanctions that involve the same type of conduct while allowing the Board greater flexibility to ensure equitable administration of discipline.***

Please visit our [Administrative Rulemaking Webpage](#) for more information.

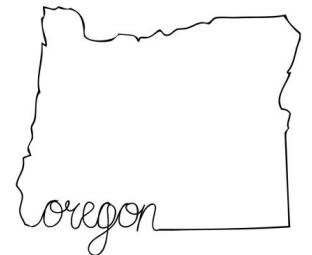
Update to Medicaid Change for Registered Associates

In the Winter 2025 Newsletter, the Board provided information regarding changes on the horizon that registrants and their supervisors should be aware of. The Oregon Health Authority (OHA) had announced its intention to amend rules to disallow Medicaid billing for registered associates outside of programs holding an OHA certificate of approval (community mental health programs, hospitals, etc.).

OHA's Behavioral Health and Medicaid Divisions issued a [January 16, 2025 Memorandum](#) indicating that it will allow a grace period for registered associates through June 2026. OHA's Equity & Inclusion Division issued a [January 27, 2025 Letter](#) to the Oregon Health Policy Board on that expressed "deep concerns" about OHA's decision, and calling for rulemaking to be delayed for conduction of an impact assessment, to create better transparency, and to perform an equity review.

OHA's Behavioral Health and Medicaid Divisions recently established a [Billing Change Webpage](#) to keep partners apprised of the rule change process. This site will include information about opportunities for engagement and feedback, as well as updates on how partner and community feedback is shaping implementation decisions.

This article is presented for informational purposes only. As a reminder, the Board cannot answer questions or provide advice on insurance matters or legislation/administrative rules proposed or adopted by legislators or other agencies.



The change described above is not a Board initiative.

Clarifying the Use of Licensee Contact Information

The Board recently received concerns from licensees about whether their contact information is being sold to solicitors. The purpose of this article is to clarify the facts, explain the legal framework that governs public information, and to educate licensees on how to manage what's visible. The key takeaway: *you have control over your data.*

Oregon has very open, transparent Public Records Laws that requires public access to records maintained by government agencies, including the Board. The law includes a strong disclosure standard that assumes records are public unless there is an exemption. Some personal privacy information like SSNs, date of birth, and home address are generally protected. Boards are required to maintain public contact info for licensees and to make this information accessible to the public. The Board carries out this mandate firstly via its [Online License Search](#) that displays name, license status, and the address and phone number of the current place(s) of practice address. Secondly, a formal request can be made for a downloadable list of public licensee contact information. This includes the practice address, public phone number, and any optional public email address

Clarifying the Use of Licensee Contact Information, Cont.

you've chosen to provide. The current processing fee is \$35, as allowed by law.

Licensees are encouraged to review the information they have provided in the [Licensee Portal](#) to ensure it is as they expect. To view and edit your public practice information, log in to the Portal and click the “Places of Practice” left-side menu option. From there, you can update or add locations. If a location is no longer active, add an end date to remove it from display.

To view and edit your contact information, including your email address, click the “Personal Information” left-side menu option. The Primary Email is used to log into the Portal and for Board communication. This is not shared publicly. The Public Email Address is optional and is what the Board releases in list requests. Below is how these fields appear in the Portal.

Primary E-mail *

sally.smith@personal.com

Note:

- The primary e-mail address that you enter here will become your new login if changed.
- The “Mailing” address and “Primary E-Mail” fields are what the Board will use to contact you.
- Important notices and reminders will be sent to the primary email address throughout the year. Please make sure to check your inbox as well as spam folder on a regular basis. If you find our email in your spam folder, please ensure that you add us to your safe senders list.
- The “Public” address information is available to the public and posted to the Online Lookup. Do not enter personal information that you do not wish to share in these fields.

Public E-mail Address

sally.smith@public.com

Important Reminders:

- If you update your Primary Email in the Portal, it becomes your new username. The system won’t send password resets to your previous email for security reasons.
- Licensees are required to update their name, address, email, and phone number within 30 days of any change. These tasks are all completed via the [Licensee Portal](#).
- System automated notifications, including renewal reminders, are sent from oblpcr@thentiacloud.net. Please add this email to your contacts or safe sender list to avoid missing important communications. This email does not receive replies; if you have questions, contact lpct.board@mhra.oregon.gov.

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Review of 2024 Board Disciplines

In 2024, the Board issued 42 orders in 46 cases of alleged misconduct. These orders represent the following violations of the ACA Code of Ethics, Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR), and Oregon Revised Statute (ORS). Note that 25 of the 42 orders involved more than one type of violation, totaling 101 violations cited overall.

Violation	Count	% of Violations	% of Orders
A.1.a. Client Welfare/Primary Responsibility	6	5.9%	14.3%
A.11.c. Appropriate Termination	1	1.0%	2.4%
A.12. Abandonment and Client Neglect	2	2.0%	4.8%
A.4.a. Avoiding Harm	12	11.9%	28.6%
A.5.a. Sexual and/or Romantic Relationships	5	5.0%	11.9%
A.5.c. Sexual and/or Romantic Relationships with Former Clients	2	2.0%	4.8%
A.5.e. Personal Virtual Relationships with Current Clients	1	1.0%	2.4%
A.6.b. Extending Counseling Boundaries	7	6.9%	16.7%
A.6.c. Documenting Boundary Extensions	3	3.0%	7.1%
A.6.d. Role Changes in the Professional Relationship	1	1.0%	2.4%
A.6.e. Nonprofessional Interactions or Relationships	9	8.9%	21.4%
B.1.c. Respect for Confidentiality	2	2.0%	4.8%
B.5.a. Responsibility to Clients	1	1.0%	2.4%
B.5.c. Release of Confidential Information	1	1.0%	2.4%
B.6.a. Creating and Maintaining Records and Documentation	3	3.0%	7.1%
C.2.a. Boundaries of Competence	2	2.0%	4.8%
C.2.e. Consultations on Ethical Obligations	3	3.0%	7.1%
C.2.g. Impairment	2	2.0%	4.8%
C.6.b. Reports to Third Parties	1	1.0%	2.4%
C.6.d. Exploitation of Others	2	2.0%	4.8%
D.1.g. Employer Policies	1	1.0%	2.4%
F.10.c. Relationships with Former Students	1	1.0%	2.4%
F.3.a. Extending Conventional Supervisor Relationships	1	1.0%	2.4%
G.2.c. Client Participation	1	1.0%	2.4%
I.1.b. Ethical Decision Making	3	3.0%	7.1%
OAR 833-050-0031- Professional Disclosure Statement	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-050-0061(2)- Practice Under Supervision Until Licensed	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-050-0111(1)(a)- Registered Associate Title/Representation	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-050-0111(1)(e)- Submission of Supervision Reports	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-100-0012(4)- Dishonesty, Fraud, Deceit, or Misrepresentation	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-110-0011(10)- Failure to Comply with Board Order	1	1.0%	2.4%
OAR 833-110-0011(5)- Failure to Cooperate with Board Investigation	5	5.0%	11.9%

Review of 2024 Board Disciplines, Cont.

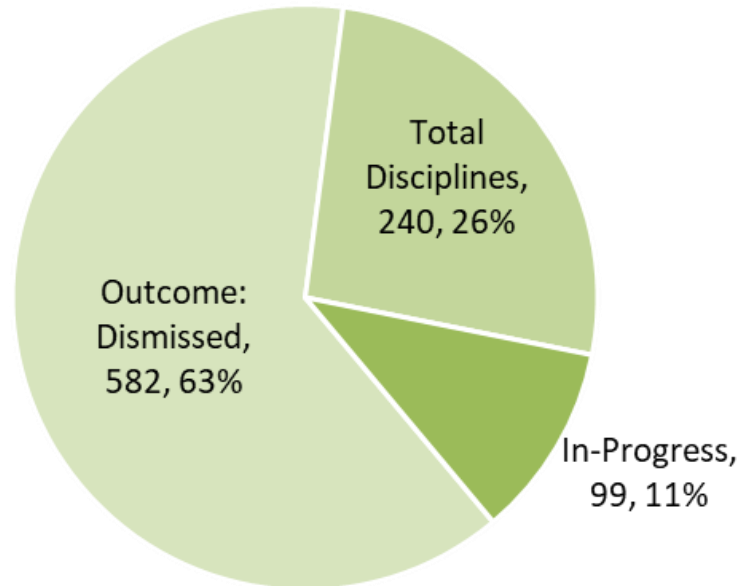
OAR 833-110-0031(1)- False, Misleading, or Deceptive Statements to the Board	2	2.0%	4.8%
OAR 833-110-0031(2)- Complete & Truthful Responses to Character & Fitness Questions	1	1.0%	2.4%
ORS 675.070(2)(j)- Conviction of Sex Crimes	1	1.0%	2.4%
ORS 675.745(1)(b) or (c)- Impairment	1	1.0%	2.4%
ORS 675.825(1)(b)- Use of LPC Title	1	1.0%	2.4%
ORS 675.825(1)(d)- Unlicensed Practice	9	8.9%	21.4%
ORS 676.150(3)- Reporting of Criminal Arrest or Conviction	2	2.0%	4.8%
TOTAL	101		

The 42 orders issued by the Board in 2024 included the following disciplinary outcomes (sanctions). 15 out of the 42 orders involved more than one type of outcome.

Outcomes	Count	% of Outcomes	% of Orders
Agreement Not to Reapply	2	2.9%	4.8%
<i>Agreement Not to Reapply (2 years)</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>Agreement Not to Reapply (10 years)</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
Civil Penalty	14	20.6%	33.3%
Continuing Education	20	29.4%	47.6%
<i>3 Clock Hours</i>	4	5.9%	9.5%
<i>6 Clock Hours</i>	10	14.7%	23.8%
<i>8 Clock Hours</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>9 Clock Hours</i>	2	2.9%	4.8%
<i>12 Clock Hours</i>	2	2.9%	4.8%
<i>18 Clock Hours</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
License Revocation	5	7.4%	11.9%
License Suspension	5	7.4%	11.9%
<i>30-Day Suspension</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>3-Month Suspension</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>6-Month Suspension</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>5-Year Suspension (stayed)</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>Indefinite</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
Non-Renewal of License	1	1.5%	2.4%
Probation	1	1.5%	2.4%
Reprimand	1	1.5%	2.4%
Required Disclosure to Supervisor	2	2.9%	4.8%
Supervised Practice	10	14.7%	23.8%
<i>Minimum 6 Months</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
<i>Minimum 12 Months</i>	8	11.8%	19.0%
<i>Minimum 18 Months</i>	1	1.5%	2.4%
Surrender License Under Investigation	5	7.4%	11.9%
Write Article or Essay	1	1.5%	2.4%
TOTAL	68		

Review of 2024 Board Disciplines, Cont.

Investigative Case Outcomes
Cases Received 2019 - 2024



This article is presented for informational purposes only. Violations and outcomes will vary based on the specific facts of each case.

Calendar Events

May 2025

- 5/08: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
- 5/12: Education & DEI Committee Meeting
- 5/26: Office Closed, Memorial Day

June 2025

- 6/06: **Board Meeting**
- 6/07: Strategic Planning Meeting
- 6/09: Education & DEI Committee Meeting
- 6/19: Office Closed, Juneteenth

July 2025

- 7/04: Office Closed, Independence Day
- 7/10: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting
- 7/14: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

August 2025

- 8/01: **Board Meeting**
- 8/11: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

September 2025

- 9/01: Office Closed, Labor Day
- 9/08: Education & DEI Committee Meeting
- 9/11: Consumer Protection Committee Meeting

October 2025

- 10/03: **Board Meeting**
- 10/13: Education & DEI Committee Meeting

Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled. Please also visit our [Board Meetings Webpage](#).