Counseling Compact 2023 Annual Business Meeting

Meeting Minutes

October 25, 2023

Meeting held virtually via Zoom.

Delegates Present:
Latofia Parker, Alabama
Justin Moore, Arkansas
Nate Brown, Colorado
Ashleigh Irving, Florida
Kimble Richardson, Indiana
Amy Mooney, Iowa
Laura Shaughnessy, Kansas
Andrea Brooks, Kentucky
Jamie Doming, Louisiana
Mary Drotleff, Maryland
Susan Meyerle, Nebraska
Lindsey Courtney, New Hampshire
Denauvo Robinson, North Carolina
Jenna Johnson, North Dakota
Brian Carnahan, Ohio
Kim Speakman, Tennessee
Jana Johansen, Utah
Brandon Williams, Washington
Tony Onorato, West Virginia
Greg Searls, Wyoming

Delegates Absent:
Alison Warren, Delaware
Tommy Black, Georgia
Kim Shaffer, Maine
LeeAnn Mordecai, Mississippi
Gloria Lindsey, Missouri

States with no delegate appointed:
Connecticut
Montana
States with future delegates attending (nonvoting):
Laura Layman, Vermont
Jamie Hoyle, Virginia
Johnie Fredman, Oklahoma

Executive Committee Ex-Officio Members Present
Lynn Linde
Beverly Smith
Matt Grayson
Kylie Dotson-Blake

Legal Counsel Present:
Nahale Kalfas, Council of State Governments (CSG)

CSG Staff Present:
Carl Sims
Isabel Eliassen
Dan Logsdon

CAMS Staff Present:
Julie Windsor
Jodie Markey

44 members of the public were also present.

Welcome/Call to Order
- J. Doming called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm ET.
- I. Eliassen reminded the meeting attendees that only state delegates were authorized to speak, make motions, and vote unless otherwise noted. State delegates had been appointed by their states and were on file with the commission.

Roll Call
- J. Doming invited delegates to introduce themselves in alphabetical order by state. Attendance was as listed above. A quorum was established with 20 of 25 voting members present. Staff members also introduced themselves.

Adoption of the Agenda
- J. Doming called for a motion to adopt the agenda.
- **Motion**: K. Speakman moved that the commission adopt the agenda. A. Irving seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Adoption of Minutes
- J. Doming called for a motion to adopt the minutes.
• **Motion**: G. Searls moved that the commission adopt the minutes. J. Johansen seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstained due to absence at the meeting where the minutes were taken. The motion passed.

**Introduction to Secretariat**

- J. Doming provided an introduction to Clear Association Management Service (CAMS), the organization the Counseling Compact has hired to serve as their secretariat. CAMS has considerable experience in the field of management.
- J. Markey and J. Windsor, representatives of CAMS, introduced themselves.
- J. Doming and the CAMS representatives provided an update on the hiring process for the executive director. Over 60 applications were received. The Executive Committee would be discussing the applicants at their next meeting.

**Status Update on Data System and Timeline**

- J. Doming called on C. Sims to provide the update.
- C. Sims explained the importance of the data system to the compact and how compacts typically acquired data systems. He summarized the work the Commission had done with U.S. Digital Response (USDR), a nonprofit doing pro bono work helping the Commission write an RFP and evaluate responses.
- C. Sims explained that the Commission had opted to join with two other compacts, the OT Compact and the ASLP Compact, in finding a vendor, as the three Commissions would be using extremely similar data systems.
- In the coming weeks, the responses to the RFP would be received, and USDR would help evaluate them. Then the three Executive Committees would meet to make a decision on the vendor.
- C. Sims mentioned that in addition to the funds combined from the three Commissions, the DOD had expressed interest in contributing some funds to the project. Grants were an additional funding possibility.
- No one had questions on the data system update.

**Finance Committee Report**

- K. Speakman walked the Commission through the draft budget.
- K. Richardson asked if the data system would include only information on those on the commission or from all participants in states. C. Sims answered that compact data systems typically would include all licensees who qualify.
- **Motion**: B. Carnahan moved that the commission adopt the minutes. D. Robinson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained due to absence at the meeting where the minutes were taken. The motion passed.

**Rules Committee Report**

- J. Doming called on N. Brown to discuss the proposed draft rules.
Rule on Examination Requirements

- N. Brown introduced the Rule on Examination Requirements, explaining that the Rules Committee started with this rule due to concern about counselor identity.
- B. Williams asked about the inclusion of the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam (CRCE), as it was not accepted by as many states. He additionally asked if compact states would need to recognize the CRCE for licensure. N. Brown stated that individual states would not need to change their licensure requirements. Additionally, the Rules Committee had thoroughly looked into the exam and found it substantively similar to the other two exams. A. Brooks added to N. Brown’s answer, saying that the Committee heard from the organization which administered the exam. She was initially skeptical but was eventually convinced that the exam would require of those taking it the same areas of expertise and mastery that the other exams required.
- J. Moore asked if counselors who had been granted licenses before exams were required would need to take an exam now to participate in the compact. I. Eliassen answered that this was not the case, and that the compact provided for legacy licensees to participate.
- K. Richardson asked if the compact required states to use a certain name for counselors. I. Eliassen stated that the compact defined counselors in a way that allowed states to continue using their own internal licensure titles.
- L. Parker asked if any public comments had been received on this rule. I. Eliassen confirmed that no public comments had been received.
- W. Lane asked if someone lived in a state where they could not use the CRCE to become licensed, if they would be able to participate in the compact after taking that exam. I. Eliassen stated that if the person did follow their state’s licensing requirements, they would not have a valid license and could not participate in the compact. However, if they were in a state where they could use the CRCE to obtain a license, they could use that license to participate in the compact.
- B. Williams asked if states that did not recognize the CRCE for state licensure would need to recognize compact privilege applications who had obtained home state licenses in other states via the CRCE. N. Kalfas stated that non-CRCE states would need to recognize such licensees if they applied for privileges, and that compacts were built on mutual trust between states.
- **Motion**: J. Moore moved that the commission adopt the rule. L. Parker seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained. The motion passed.

Rule on Definitions

- N. Brown introduced the Rule on Definitions. He explained that the purpose of this rule was to further define terms that were used ambiguously in the compact.
- I. Eliassen stated that a comment was received about this rule. The comment was related to the definition of Home State License and asked that the definition exclude the residence requirement. N. Kalfas explained that such a change was not possible, as that definition was written into the compact, and its inclusion in this rule was for the purpose of clarification only.
- B. Williams asked to see the definition of Home State License in the compact. The definition was shown onscreen.
- B. Williams asked about how Washington should apply the definition of minor infraction. N. Brown said that it would be the state’s decision as to whether the infraction was related to the practice of counseling.

- **Motion:** K. Speakman moved that the commission adopt the rule. D. Robinson seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained due to absence at the meeting where the minutes were taken. The motion passed.

**Bylaws**

- N. Brown summarized the changes that were made to the bylaws: creating a standard size for committees, creation of committee vice chair positions, terms of appointment, handling vacancies, and adding a reimbursement policy.

- N. Kalfas stated that the need to gather information about those interested in serving on a committee resulted from a public comment received about the qualifications of committee members.

- B. Williams asked about term limits for commissioners who are from state agencies rather than board members. N. Kalfas stated that the term limits were for committee membership rather than serving as a commissioner.

- K. Speakman noted a typo regarding the number of members-at-large in the executive committee, which should have been listed as 3 rather than 4, and that the secretary would need to be added to the document.

- L. Parker noted that the bylaws might want to use the term “secretariat” rather than the name of the secretariat organization in order to remain evergreen.

- N. Kalfas said that the suggested amendments were not substantive and the Commission could adopt the bylaws as amended.

- **Motion:** G. Searls moved that the commission adopt the bylaws as amended. T. Onorato seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 0. The motion passed.

**Discussion and Vote on Annual Report**

- J. Doming led the group in a review of the annual report, saying that the report looked at the Compact’s history and progress.

- J. Doming called for a motion to approve the report.

- **Motion:** A. Irving moved that the commission adopt the report. L. Shaugnessy seconded the motion. All present voted in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

**Election of Member-at-Large**

- J. Doming stated that due to the bylaws, rather than having an election, the Commission would have a call for nominations for 10 days. Then the Committee members would receive information on nominees and vote.

- I. Eliassen provided information about the workload of a member-at-large on the Executive Committee.

- J. Doming reminded commissioners to email their nominations to I. Eliassen.
Discussion of Future Meeting

- J. Doming said that the Executive Committee had discussed co-locating the 2024 Annual Business Meeting with the 2024 AASCB Conference in Tucson.
- I. Eliassen conducted a brief straw poll of commissioner availability to determine feasibility of holding the annual meeting on January 10, co-located with AASCB.

Delegate Questions and Public Comment

- K. Redmond asked if the CRCE allows compact users to practice independently without supervision. I. Eliassen stated that all compact practitioners must be able to practice independently as a requirement for joining the compact.
- B. Fier asked if the Commission had determined the required number of supervised hours. I. Eliassen said that the supervised hours requirement for a license in a home state was the only supervision requirement and that the Commission did not require additional hours.
- E. Groh asked if any states represented needed to reconcile additional obstacles before moving forward with the compact and if any of states needed to pass additional legislation in order to be permitted to engage in compact agreements. I. Eliassen responded that most states did not need to pass additional legislation. In order to join the compact, a state needed to already meet compact requirements. Some states had to adjust their credit hour requirements to meet the 60 credit hours required by the compact. Florida separated the compact fee into a different bill and had to get that bill passed. The only major obstacle at this point is operationalizing the data system, which would be resolved on a state-by-state basis. Additionally, if a state did not require a FBI background check, it would need to do so. N. Kalfas stated that the SHARE Act could potentially provide a federal solution to the background check issue if the bill was passed.

Meeting Closure

- Seeing no further questions, J. Doming called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- **Motion:** K. Speakman motioned to adjourn. A. Mooney seconded the motion. There were no objections and the meeting adjourned by declaration.