

**Transcript  
Board of Occupational Therapy May 14, 2022  
Disciplinary Hearing and Board Meeting**

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Loretta Ponton:

Good morning, everyone. This is the State of Nevada Board of Occupational Therapy Board Meeting and Disciplinary Hearing. The date is May 14th, 2022. Madam Chair, I believe we're ready to start.

Allison Stone:

Good. Thank you. I'd like to go ahead and call the meeting to order. And can I please get a confirmation of quorum?

Loretta Ponton:

Do a roll call. Allison Stone.

Allison Stone:

Here.

Loretta Ponton:

Mel Minarik. She is absent.

Loretta Ponton

Elizabeth Straughan.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Here.

Loretta Ponton:

Phil Seitz.

Phil Seitz:

Here.

Loretta Ponton:

And Sol Magpantay.

Sol Magpantay:

Here.

Loretta Ponton:

Madam Chair, we have a quorum.

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Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. And at this time, I'd like to open the floor to any public comment, if anyone would have any comments that they would like to make. Okay. Hearing no public comment at this time. We'll move on to item number three, approval of the minutes of board meeting for March 19th.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Madam Chair, I so move that we accept the minutes from the board meeting of March 19th, 2022.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. And is there a second?

Phil Seitz:

I second. This is Phil.

Allison Stone:

Thank you. All those in favor, say aye.

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Opposed? Thank you so much. Minutes were approved. Moving on to item number four, discipline hearing for case number C22-03. Sophia, I was wondering if you could just give an introduction to the hearing process before we get started.

Sophia Long:

Sophia Long, senior deputy attorney general as board counsel for the record. So as you announced that this is the disciplinary hearing for Jennifer Courtad, is Ms. Courtad in the meeting today? And Ms. Ponton, maybe you can confirm whether she's connected or not?

Loretta Ponton:

Madam Chair and Sophia Long, I do not show that Ms. Courtad has signed on to the meeting.

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Sophia Long:

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Ponton. So I guess by way of procedure, what'll happen is Madam Chair will chair this hearing. Ms. Rasul will act as prosecuting attorney for the board. Again, I will act as board counsel, so if you have any questions regarding any of the procedure or any evidence that you hear, please ask me and not Ms. Rasul.

Sophia Long:

It appears that the respondent is not... She's not appearing at the hearing today, and Ms. Rasul will go through what she needs to in order for the board to proceed and to make a decision in this case. So at this time, unless... Oh, board member Straughan?

Elizabeth Straughan:

I'm not sure when, but I have shared a workplace. I worked at Clark County School District, the same place as Ms. Courtad, and I have known her. I personally stopped working at the district in 2017. I was chair and did sign the initial documents when this case started.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Thank you, Ms. Straughan. Because you did sign the summary suspension. Is that correct?

Elizabeth Straughan:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Okay. So because you did sign the summary suspension in this case, then you will not participate.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Oh.

Sophia Long:

Yes. But you still have a quorum.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Okay.

Sophia Long:

Okay. So do the board members have any other questions? Okay. Otherwise, we can turn it over to Ms. Rasul.

Allison Stone :

Perfect. Yes, Please.

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Henna Rasul:

Thank you, Sophia. I'll just go ahead and begin. Chair and members of the board, I represent the state of Nevada in this matter, and the state has filed a complaint to discipline Ms. Jennifer Courtad, AKA Jennifer Jean Timmons, regarding her occupational therapy license. Ms. Courtad held an occupational therapy license in the state of Nevada at all times relevant to the complaint. As such, she was charged with certain serious responsibilities as specified in both the occupational therapy act and its corresponding regulations.

Henna Rasul:

The evidence will show that Ms. Courtad failed to meet these responsibilities when she was arrested on criminal charges of statutory sexual seduction. This resulted in a summary suspension of her OT license, and the suspension was issued on November 24th, 2021. Consequently, Ms. Courtad's failure has caused the potential for harm to the public and has compromised public health and safety. The state has filed a complaint alleging that grounds of disciplinary action exist apart from any other compliance with the occupational therapy standards of conduct by Ms. Courtad.

Henna Rasul:

The first and only allegation in the complaint or as alleged in the complaint states that Ms. Courtad committed an act of unprofessional conduct by intentionally harassing, abusing, or intimidating a patient, employer, employee, colleague, or other person either physically or verbally, including but not limited to sexual harassment, abuse, or intimidation.

Henna Rasul:

Ms. Courtad was given proper notice of this hearing at the last known address. She was sent the complaint and third notice of hearing because the hearing was continued a couple of times. She did have an attorney at the time in these instances when it was continued. I don't believe she currently has one to my knowledge. So the third notice of hearing was sent to her last known address by certified and regular mail on or about March 23rd, 2022.

Henna Rasul:

And at this time, Madam Chair, I would like to submit exhibits one through nine, if there ... Well, there are not going to be any objections.

Allison Stone:

Yep. Go right ahead.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. The state calls its first witness, Ms. Loretta Ponton. Ms. Ponton, could you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

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Loretta Ponton:

Loretta Ponton, P-O-N-T-O-N.

Henna Rasul:

Are you currently employed with the board?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Ms. Rasul, would you like me to swear her in?

Henna Rasul:

Oh, yes, please.

Sophia Long:

Ms. Ponton, would you please raise your right hand? Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in these proceedings?

Loretta Ponton:

I do.

Sophia Long:

Thank you.

Henna Rasul:

I'll just repeat the second question. Are you currently employed by the board?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes, I am. I'm the executive director.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. And this was your role at the time the complaint was filed?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes, it is.

Henna Rasul:

Are you responsible for maintaining the licensing files, a person's license with the board?

Loretta Ponton:

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Yes.

Henna Rasul:

Do you create a board file for each licensee the board licenses?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes.

Henna Rasul:

And have you had an opportunity to review Ms. Courtad's file?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes.

Henna Rasul:

And when did you last review it?

Loretta Ponton:

This morning.

Henna Rasul:

What was Ms. Courtad licensed as during the time of the allegations of the complaint?

Loretta Ponton:

An occupational therapist.

Henna Rasul:

And do you happen to know when she was licensed by the board?

Loretta Ponton:

I do. August 13th of 2002.

Henna Rasul:

And is she currently licensed by the board?

Loretta Ponton:

She is currently licensed.

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Henna Rasul:

At the time this complaint was filed, Ms. Ponton, can you please tell the board the circumstances as to why it was filed against Ms. Courtad?

Sophia Long:

I apologize real quick. I'm sorry, Ms. Rasul. Would you like to first make sure that she was properly noticed?

Henna Rasul:

Sure. I can establish that with Loretta.

Sophia Long:

Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

Henna Rasul:

Ms. Ponton, was she properly noticed?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes. She was properly noticed by certified mail, US mail, email notifications. Received no response from any of them.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. And this is with regard to the complaint that you filed?

Loretta Ponton:

Correct.

Henna Rasul:

Did she have an attorney at the time?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes, she did have an attorney, Mr. Ryan Helmick. At that point, the case was turned over to yourself, the board council to facilitate the conduct of the complaint process and correspondence.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. And then going back to my previous question. At the time the complaint was filed, could you tell the board the circumstances as to why the complaint was filed?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes. I became aware in October that Ms. Courtad had been arrested through news media. I investigated, contacted the individuals who notified me of the criminal case, contacted our investigator, Mr. Wayne

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Springmeyer with pertinent information and turned it over to him to begin the informal investigation resulting in receipt of a copy of the criminal complaint, at which time the consultation of counsel, it was determined it was a threat to the public safety for her to continue practicing based on the complaint. We issued a summary suspension. Board chair at the time, Elizabeth Straughan, signed that and it was served upon Ms. Courtad, and her license was then summary suspended until such time as a disciplinary hearing could be held in this matter.

Henna Rasul:

And was she properly noticed or her representative regarding the suspension?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes, and properly noticed.

Henna Rasul:

And just real quickly, if you could turn to exhibit five and just identify that.

Loretta Ponton:

Yes. Exhibit five is the actual complaint completed by myself identifying the allegations, potential violations, and summary of the case.

Henna Rasul:

And could you just go to exhibit eight and identify that as well?

Loretta Ponton:

Exhibit eight is the notification letter, a summary suspension of the occupational therapy license number 0637, a request for an extension of time for hearing pursuant to NRS 233B.127. This was addressed to Jennifer Courtad. We received a response from her attorney agreeing to an extension of the hearing, the 45-day hearing process.

Henna Rasul:

And finally, could you turn to exhibit nine and identify this exhibit?

Loretta Ponton:

Exhibit nine is the licensing and, well, the entire record of Ms. Jennifer Courtad that we have on file. It's comprised of her license record, her contact record, her employment records, and updated employment information.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. So did she keep everything current with the board as far as you know? All her information?



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Loretta Ponton:

These records have not been updated since her last renewal of her license in 2020. Correspondence sent to her address of record has been returned as not accepted, returned address, not at this address or unclaimed. Also included in this record packet was verification of license held in the state of Utah under a different name that was not disclosed on her license application. I did provide a copy of her license application, also, and her documentation that was submitted at original licensure. So we have no updated contact information other than what was provided from her attorney of record at the time, and her records with the board have not been updated since her last renewal in 2020.

Henna Rasul:

And do you happen to know the current status of her criminal case?

Loretta Ponton:

I do. It is still pending in criminal court. It has been reset for a hearing in next month to allow her time to obtain a new attorney and has been extended three times so far. There is no actual date for the hearing set yet.

Henna Rasul:

Thank you, Ms. Ponton. I have no further questions, so I will let the board ask her questions if they have. No? Okay. Okay. The state calls its next witness, Wayne Springmeyer.

Wayne Springmeyer:

Here.

Henna Rasul:

Hello. Could you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

Wayne Springmeyer:

It's Wayne Springmeyer, S-P-R-I-N-G-M-E-Y-E-R.

Henna Rasul:

And are you currently employed by the board? Oh, wait.

Wayne Springmeyer:

[inaudible 00:16:29].

Henna Rasul:

Oh, sorry. Sorry. We need to swear you in.

Sophia Long:

Okay, Mr. Springmeyer. Could you please raise your right hand?

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Wayne Springmeyer:

I'm sorry, say again.

Sophia Long:

Could you please raise your right hand?

Wayne Springmeyer:

Okay.

Sophia Long:

Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in these proceedings?

Wayne Springmeyer:

I do.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Thank you.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. So are you currently employed by the board?

Wayne Springmeyer:

Yes, I am.

Henna Rasul:

And what is your role with the board?

Wayne Springmeyer:

I don't recall a date. Probably-

Henna Rasul:

Oh, no. What is your role? What do you do for the board?

Wayne Springmeyer:

I'm the investigator for the board.

Henna Rasul:

And was this your role at the time of the complaint?

Wayne Springmeyer:

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Yes.

Henna Rasul:

When it was filed? As the board investigator, how did you go about investigating this matter?

Wayne Springmeyer:

I was notified by Loretta of the news article from the Las Vegas newspaper on Ms. Courtad's arrest. And Loretta asked me to look into it to see what we could find out. I contacted the Las Vegas or the Clark County School District police department who had jurisdiction and spoke to the shift commander on that day. Oh, who directed me? I was looking for the report trying to find out if I could get a copy of report, what we needed to do. Did we need a subpoena or just a request? The shift commander authorized the release of the police report with redactions, of course, because XXXX is a juvenile. And he also directed their records supervisor to provide the report upon the receipt of a letter on letterhead from the board requesting it.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. And do you have the exhibits or exhibit six? Because that's the one I wanted to ask you about.

Wayne Springmeyer:

I don't have any exhibits, but the file, Loretta's got the police report in file.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. There-

Wayne Springmeyer:

I just have a copy of it.

Henna Rasul:

Do you have a copy of the police file or the report?

Wayne Springmeyer:

Yes, I do.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. That's pretty much that's exhibit six and all the contents. So I guess if you could just go through what you focused on when you were reviewing the record so that the board can focus on what's important.

Wayne Springmeyer:

Well, once we received the report from the school district police, I reviewed it. Very in-depth report. They did a very good job, and I've reviewed a lot of police reports in my history. And then we set out on looking for what we needed to get for the investigation, which then included the preparation of

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subpoenas for court records. We wanted the court docket. We wanted the arrest report, which we got. And then working it down from there, I was contacting potential witnesses and ultimately interviewed two of the witnesses that are listed on this case today.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Let's see here. And what did you discover in your investigation?

Wayne Springmeyer:

When did I what?

Henna Rasul:

What did you discover in your investigation?

Wayne Springmeyer:

Well, there is in the police report, it outlines the sexual activity between the defendant and the [inaudible 00:20:43] and goes into specific detail activity. And that is supported not only by the police interviews, but the screenshots of text messages from Courtad to Taylor outlining exactly what she's doing with juvenile in explicit detail.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Well, thank you very much. I'm going to just hand you over to the board if the board members have any questions for you.

Phil Seitz:

So Wayne, so there was text messages correspondence between Mrs. Courtad and the defendant?

Wayne Springmeyer:

No. The text messages were from Ms. Courtad to Candace Taylor. I think that's her name. Yeah, Candace Taylor. Candace Taylor was a friend of Courtad's who had gotten to know her and been a friend since around 2016, 2017. And they corresponded regularly by text message and had person-to-person conversations. And Courtad, for whatever reason, decided to start texting with the messages of what she was doing with the juvenile, whose name is (redacted).

Henna Rasul:

And the text messages. We have a copy of that and they begin on bate stamp 65.

Wayne Springmeyer:

I do. I do. Yeah, there's a copy in the police report.

Henna Rasul:

Yeah. And so it's bate stamp 65 through, if you're wanting to turn to that, 65 through ... It's hard to see the numbers ... 69.

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Wayne Springmeyer:

Yes.

Phil Seitz:

Was there photographs also involved in these texts?

Wayne Springmeyer:

I'm sorry.

Phil Seitz:

Were there pictures, photographs?

Wayne Springmeyer:

No, there were not any photographs. Just the text messages themselves. And subsequently, I've interviewed Candace Taylor [inaudible 00:23:31] adds additional information, verbal conversations they had back in 2018, where Ms. Courtad admitted to Taylor she was renting motel rooms to be with the juvenile.

Phil Seitz:

So this behavior had been going on all the way back in 2018?

Wayne Springmeyer:

Yes. According to Candace Taylor, yes.

Phil Seitz:

Boy. Okay.

Henna Rasul:

If there are no further questions, okay. Thank you, Wayne. I'm going to move on to the state's next witness, Ms. Melissa Raab.

Melissa Raab:

Yes. Hello.

Henna Rasul:

Hi. I'll have you sworn in first.

Melissa Raab:

Okay.

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Sophia Long:

Ms. Raab, could you please raise your right hand?

Melissa Raab:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Do you affirm to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth in these proceedings?

Melissa Raab:

I do.

Sophia Long:

Thank you, Ms. Raab. And actually, before we move on, for the rest of the witnesses, if you can please identify the juvenile just as a juvenile and not say his name. I mean, we all know you know who he is, but for the purposes of this proceeding, since he was a minor at the time. I don't know if he still is now and he's not here, so if he could just refer to him either as the juvenile.

Melissa Raab:

Yeah. I'd appreciate that.

Sophia Long:

Thank you.

Melissa Raab:

Yeah.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Ms. Raab, could you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

Melissa Raab:

Melissa Raab, R-A-A-B.

Henna Rasul:

And are you familiar with the circumstances surrounding the complaint that's been filed with the board?

Melissa Raab:

Yes.

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Henna Rasul:

And how do you know Ms. Courtad?

Melissa Raab:

The juvenile is my son. He was in her house.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. All right. So if you could, were you provided the document bate stamp 71? I think that's what I asked Loretta to provide. If you could refresh your recollection with that document and just explain to us what occurred in your words.

Melissa Raab:

Should I start from when this all had come out? Because basically I had gotten proof finally from Candace that what I had known was going on and calling her out on, I had no proof. And I didn't get proof until Candace reached out to me and told me.

Henna Rasul:

Okay.

Melissa Raab:

But I knew-

Henna Rasul:

Go ahead.

Melissa Raab:

But yeah.

Henna Rasul:

Go ahead. Sorry.

Melissa Raab:

Oh. So the juvenile was temporarily staying in the house. He was best friends with her son and I was in a very, very difficult situation. And Jennifer and I had talked and agreed that (redacted) would stay there while I got back on my feet and I got things together. And it was during that time where Jennifer took advantage of the situation, took advantage of my son, and started this relationship with him. She started driving. I mean, like I said, because basically it's all circumstantial. I couldn't get any real proof, but things were happening and I was trying to figure it out and trying to call her out and trying to, yeah, really just try to get in between, trying to get proof. Anything that I could, just trying to make my presence be known.

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Melissa Raab:

And she had gone behind my back and somehow got my son emancipated. I wasn't even notified when my son was emancipated at all. I didn't even know until after this had come to light and I was trying to figure out what I could do. And then that's how I found out that there was an emancipation in court, and I had no idea. And they knew where I lived. She had my address. She knew where I lived. There was no reason for that to happen, to go down the way it did, but that happened. And when Candace had contacted me and I found all of this out, at the time, my son was juvenile. He was still 15 years old.

Henna Rasul:

When did you suspect things were off?

Melissa Raab:

I would say probably ... Goodness gracious. So this came out the beginning of '20. Yeah. Maybe even ... Yeah, it was January, February of 2020.

Henna Rasul:

And how old was your son at the time when you-

Melissa Raab:

15.

Henna Rasul:

Oh, at the time you suspected, he was 15. Okay.

Melissa Raab:

Mm-hmm.

Henna Rasul:

Was it in his behavior, her behavior?

Melissa Raab:

Both.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Is there anything else you want to add?

Melissa Raab:

That she is a danger. She's a threat. Yeah. Yeah. And I know supposedly she's in Utah somewhere, and I know that some of her ... Yeah, her kids don't want anything. Some of her kids don't want anything to do with her, so it's just sad and this has ripped families apart. And the justice system is ... The justice system, not the board. That's different. But the fact that this has been extended three times is really



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frustrating. And my son is still estranged. We haven't heard from him. Nobody in the family has heard from him and it's scary, because that's not who my son is or was. I don't know what she's done to him.

Henna Rasul:

I'm sorry. I have no further questions for Ms. Raab. I'll hand her over to the board, if they have any questions for her.

Phil Seitz:

Was Jennifer treating the juvenile?

Melissa Raab:

Yeah. She groomed him 100%.

Phil Seitz:

No, no, no.

Melissa Raab:

She basically-

Phil Seitz:

Was she providing occupational therapy services for him?

Melissa Raab:

No.

Phil Seitz:

Okay. So how did they-

Melissa Raab:

No. She was like the basketball mom, one of the team moms. Our boys play basketball together. That's how. But because he was a student at El Dorado, she was working at El Dorado, whether it was part-time there or not, and she would throw that around all the time. When we'd have conversations, she'd throw around how well connected she was and how she knew these people. And she was well connected with one of the officers or something over there at the school police over there at El Dorado. And yeah, just ... But no, she was not an occupational therapist for my son.

Phil Seitz:

Okay.

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Henna Rasul:

No other further questions? Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you very much, Ms. Raab. Appreciate it. So the state's going to call its final witness, Ms. Candace Taylor.

Sophia Long:

Ms. Taylor, you're on mute. Are you there, Ms. Taylor?

Henna Rasul:

We see your name.

Sophia Long:

Henna, do you have her phone number? Maybe you can text her or-

Henna:

I don't. Loretta, do you?

Loretta Ponton:

I'll check.

Sophia Long:

I think she just dropped off. So I don't know if we just want to give her a minute. Maybe she's just having technical difficulties.

Henna Rasul:

Yeah. Here you are, Ms. Taylor.

Candace Taylor:

Hi, my connection was bad. I'm sorry.

Henna Rasul:

Oh, no, that's fine. That's fine. I'm glad you're back. And you were sworn in, correct?

Sophia Long:

No, I'll do it right now.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Okay.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Ms. Taylor, will you please raise your right hand?

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Candace Taylor:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Do you affirm to tell the truth and nothing but the truth in these proceedings?

Candace Taylor:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Thank you, Ms. Taylor. And also, I think you heard earlier too about just identifying the minor as the juvenile instead of by name?

Candace Taylor:

Yes.

Sophia Long:

Okay. Thank you.

Henna Rasul:

Good afternoon, Ms. Taylor, thank you for taking time on a Saturday. Could you please state your name and spell your last name for the record?

Candace Taylor:

Candace Taylor, T-A-Y-L-O-Y-R.

Henna Rasul:

And Ms. Taylor, how do you know Ms. Courtad?

Candace Taylor:

I met her back in 2008 because she was my son's occupational therapist.

Henna Rasul:

Oh, okay. And could you just, simultaneously, if you could... You have bates stamp 64, I believe right Loretta? That was sent to her? So that document in front of you. In conjunction with that, if you could just tell us how you're familiar with the circumstances surrounding this complaint.

Candace Taylor:

Okay. So I met Jennifer in 2008. She had become my son's occupational therapist. From that point on, she would see my son every week. And over time through the course of the years, we began a

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friendship. And the friendship became, she was still my son's occupational therapist, but we had become family. Her daughter and my son are like sister and brother.

Candace Taylor:

And just one day, I don't know why she felt like so comfortable with it, and I felt I was totally in disbelief, distraught, I was scared, I didn't know what to do because I had rented out her home some years ago, quite some years ago and I was afraid to say anything about any of it, because I was afraid that I would be put out with my kids on the street, which is exactly what took place.

Candace Taylor:

That's why I didn't know what to do, but at some point I just said, you know what? I need to talk about this. So this is how it happened. She had come to pick me up from my house and she's like, "Oh, I'll take you to go get your vehicle registered." And I'm like, "Okay." She's like, "But we really need talk." And I'm thinking something's wrong with the kids or something took place. That's what I was thinking.

Candace Taylor:

But when we were on our way to her place, she told me, "Candace, I know you told me not to do this, but it happened." And I'm like, "What do you mean? Well, what happened?" And she said, "The juvenile and I had sex," and that her son and one of the other juveniles, they were all in a hotel room and they were sleeping on the other bed. And her in the juvenile that she had dealings in the other bed.

Candace Taylor:

And the juvenile supposedly started kissing on her and it shot off from there. So from that very point, she would make me feel very, very uncomfortable through all of those years talking to me about her sexual relations with the juvenile, very graphic, very detailed, step by step, who was there, who was not. There were times when she would... One of her daughters had lived next door to her.

Candace Taylor:

The daughter would come over and she had these cameras. And so she would hurry up and be like, "Oh, Candace, Marisa's at the door and the juvenile and I are naked. And we almost got busted." And she's like, "Got to hurry up and throw my clothes on." There was one point where she had texted me, she thought that she was texting me, but it went into a group chat, the family group chat that she had, which reached out to all of her children, including the juvenile.

Candace Taylor:

And she turned it around and told them, "Oh, no, that it was Candace talking about her husband explaining to me." So they just kind of blew it off, brushed it off like, "Oh, okay. Mistake, whatever." After so long of it, I could not take seeing this child's mother so hurt, it bothered me. I've seen her with Jennifer multiple times more than I can count on my hands and toes.

Candace Taylor:

And I would look at her like, please get my number or something because Jennifer kept me away from her. Like, "Oh, look, while we're here, you could talk to her after that," like it ain't nothing, because I

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don't want to be involved and getting busted. So I winded up one day I was so hurt I was crying and I was in Jennifer's house, well, Ms. Courtad's home where I was renting.

Candace Taylor:

And I was just sitting there trying to figure out how could I reach out to this kid's mom? So I drove to where Jennifer had told me that she lived and I was driving around there and I didn't see her. So I went to the store of where I... Because we all had stayed in the area. I would go to the store, I'd sit, I'd wait and no signs of the mom.

Candace Taylor:

And so one day something just clicked in my mind like, hey, go back to your messages in the phone. She texts everything to you and see if you could find the mom's last name. So just one particular day, a friend of mine had helped me. I said, "Hey Bingo. I got it. I think this is his mother's last name. Try to help me find her." So a friend of mine had went on Google and looked for the juvenile's mother.

Candace Taylor:

And for somehow, she had something on the Google website and we were able to want... My friend of mine had a Instagram page where she was able to reach out to the mother and the friend of mine expressed to the mother what took place in what was going on. The whole while long, the mom was speculating something wasn't right because Jennifer had become very aggressive.

Candace Taylor:

That's what made me start feeling really afraid because she was like, "I'm going to go buy a gun and protect myself. The juvenile's mother is coming around my house. She's driving around, acting crazy." Trying to make it seem like the mom is crazy, but the whole while long, the mother's just upset and wants her child. During this time, the mother, she had no knowledge.

Candace Taylor:

She just wants her child because she was going through something, she's trying to get on her feet. When she got on her feet and she was ready to get her child back, Jennifer put up a argument about, "Oh she's not going to take any shit that I bought for him. She could take the little ass clothing that she bought for him but he's grown out of over the course of the years. But she's not going to take anything over here from me. And if she wants him to have this, that, and the third, everything that she bought him, then she could bite herself. But she's not going to take anything from here."

Candace Taylor:

She had talked to the juvenile about an emancipation and the juvenile asked Jennifer, "What is that?" And she was like, she broke it down and bits and pieces. So he felt like, oh, okay. Yeah, she does this and that for me, she was grooming him. And he was all for it. And she went to the court and at that point I had had enough, but I couldn't show that to her or express it to her because I was living in her home that she rented one of her properties to me.

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Candace Taylor:

And she had went and got him emancipated. And then every time the mother would call, she'd make up this lie about basketball. "Oh, well we have to drive out of town and they have a tournament." And, "Oh, they have to go to school," and this, that and the third. And it got to one point where Courtad's son had walked in the room on the juvenile, which was his best friend.

Candace Taylor:

And Courtad was in the room with her top off. She only was able to get her top and her bra off. And when she was going to get ready to take off her bottoms, that's when her son walked in and was like, "Mom, what are you doing?" And she was like, "Oh, this isn't what you think it is." And the juvenile was sitting there. They both were in shock, scared, not knowing what to say.

Candace Taylor:

She made it believable that, hey whatever so her son, he thought nothing of it because she steered his mind in a different angle. And one night she threatened to go get a gun, that she was going to kill the juvenile's mother if she had come by her home again to retrieve her child. And then she went and put a restraining order in place to try to cover up what she was doing with the juvenile.

Candace Taylor:

And I explained to her, I said, "Hey Courtad," I mean, that's not what I called her. I called her by her first name. And I said that, "This is not okay." I said, "He's a child. And just give him back to his mom." And I warned her beforehand. I said, "Listen, if this kid is doing this," and these were my exact words, I said, "You need to get him back to his parents. He has a mother and a father." I said, "And he's going to cost you everything if he sits here and makes a lie up on you."

Candace Taylor:

At this point, she hadn't done that. But I told her, "You get him back to his parents and get him out of your home. You have a lot to lose." And she didn't care. And she kept it going and she kept on. And she got busted on her camera from a grown-up man that she was dealing with. And he had caught the juvenile and her in the act. And he buzzed in on the camera. And he told her, "I know you're not fooling around with this little boy."

Candace Taylor:

And then the juvenile became very upset, and he ripped the cameras and everything out of the wall. She explained to me in detail, by detail, how that took place and that she needed to get her laptop and everything back from him because he had found out, but he said that he wasn't going to snitch on her. He said, "I'm not going to snitch on you, but you better get that little boy out of your house and send him back to his parents."

Candace Taylor:

And she did not. At one point, she fooled around with him. She had gave him scabies. And not only did she give the scabies to the juvenile, she had given it to her daughter as well. And so everyone in the

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house had to get checked out for that. She would go at late night, call me, 1:00, 2:00 in the morning, yeah. The juvenile wants me to go. I got to go grab a Oreo shake and this type of burger and da, da, da.

Candace Taylor:

And I'm like, "Why are you doing this? You don't even do this for your own kids." I said, "You don't even really do this for me." I said, "I know I'm not your man, I'm a woman. And but we're friends and we look out for each other," meaning looking out for each other, if we need to vent or go sit down and have a drink like McDonald's and get a drink and eat a burger and talk.

Candace Taylor:

And she was like, "Well, Candace, if you were fucking me like he was, then I would have no problem buying you that." And I mean, this, this kid is packing and I'm just sitting here like... And it came to a point I said, "Jennifer," I said, "I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be rude. I love you. I really do." I said, "And I don't want to hear anything else about this boy. I don't want to hear it."

Candace Taylor:

I said, "He's a kid and that's not on my level. I just don't want to hear it. And we could talk about anything else other than him." And there will be times that she'd find herself slipping and she'll start talking about how they went here and did this and that. And I, again, I'd stop her. So one point she'd come to my home, well, which it was, she was the owner of the home, but I was the renter. And she had come by and she kind of caught me off guard.

Candace Taylor:

And I'm thinking I'm going at the airport with her for something, but I didn't know until I started putting pieces to the puzzle together. And once she got me out there, I eventually knew when we left what was going on. And she was trying to find an escape way. She went and bought a new car. She got rid of the old one so that the juvenile's mother would not know what car to look for when she arrived to pick her son up from the airport.

Candace Taylor:

So she had made a, what is it called? A Snapchat page so that her and the juvenile could converse back and forth of how they were going to do this. And she had rented a room over, off of Nellis in Las Vegas Boulevard for them two to stay. And she had gotten rid of her kids to be with the juvenile at a room. And she switched. She bought the juvenile a new phone so that the phone that his mother bought and was paying the bill on, that he could not have any contact with her.

Candace Taylor:

And the mother she called and called and called and still nothing. And she was hurt and crying. And the reason how I know is because Courtad expressed everything from the mother's conversation and everything, and she's all like, "Why doesn't she just leave us alone? She just needs to get a life and just leave us alone."

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Candace Taylor:

And I said, "Hey," I said, "Jennifer," I said, "This is a fucking child. This is a child." I said, "I love you again, but this is a kid. He's not a grown man." She said, I know that, but I can't help my feelings." And she went to crying and, "I'm really in love with him. And I just, I can't have her take him from me. I took care of him and I do this, and I do that." And I'm like, "I know you do with me. I know people can't help their feelings."

Candace Taylor:

So I'm trying to still cover myself and my family by making her... I mean, maybe it wasn't my intentions to make it seem like it was okay, by keep listening to her. I was afraid of not having anywhere to go with my kids, because I knew that if I were to bite the cheese on her, that she would put us out on the street.

Candace Taylor:

And eventually when it came out and she was trying to get me to write statements for her through CPS, because CPS had gotten involved. And I told her, yeah, well my son, my disabled son that she was his therapist, I said, "He's in the hospital right now and I can't do anything right now because I'm dealing with him." And she would come to my house. I had her on video tape because I had the same security system she had.

Candace Taylor:

And she started acting really erratic. And she kept coming to my house every day, early in the morning, bright and early would be 6:00, 7:00 in the morning. And she would want to come carving pumpkins. When her child and my child were best friends, they were like brother and sister and they've known each other since diapers.

Candace Taylor:

And she started becoming really spooky to me, to where I thought that, it's going to come to a point where she's going to start thinking, oh, she won't write this statement. She's going to tell on me. She's going to tell the way she was acting. And she's like, "Open the door, open it." I'm like, "I'm not opening this door for you." And yeah, it just started getting out of hand from that point.

Candace Taylor:

It's been four years worth of this stuff with her with the juvenile and eventually I was pregnant, it was 30 degrees and I had to get out of there with my kids and I didn't have anywhere to go until my new home had gotten ready and I was homeless for a week and a couple of days pregnant with six other children.

Candace Taylor:

And she knew, she then put two and two together and she come to the house and she tried to have me jumped and pregnant and all, and she was very upset because at that point, she knew it was over for her. She knew that there was too much evidence that I had. And I was just tired of seeing the mother go through that. And for me, myself, I was sitting there this whole time. Like dude, I have six kids.



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Candace Taylor:

At the time I was pregnant, getting ready to have the seventh child. And I'm like, Lord knows how my mind would react if I knew someone was doing this to my child or found out that this was happening to my child and no one ever said anything, I would be crushed. And all this time I felt like that was holding it over my head. Like, "Oh you stay in my house. And if there's any peep out of you and this gets out, I'm going to kick you on your ass."

Candace Taylor:

And that's what I was afraid of. And it happened. But all in all at the end of the day, there was no reason for her to rip families apart. And this is left behind. A lot of people, hearts are hurt and still to this day, especially the juvenile's mother, I watched her, that's traumatizing to me because when I wake up every day, it's on my conscience.

Candace Taylor:

I feel like, well, maybe if I would've just gotten out of her house and tried to find somewhere to go, and I knew I didn't have the means at the time all this course. I'm like, I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't have the money to pay a 2000 something dollars deposit, I'm on a fixed income. And she knew that. And that's why she did what she did by putting me out. And she had tried to go [inaudible 00:54:52] a lot of the school staff.

Candace Taylor:

She used her authority. She abused it by like, okay, well, these people don't know and they're going to believe me. So I'm going to get them to write a statement for me, do CPS and state what type of a mother I am, the type of parent I am, to say that I didn't do this. There's only one person that knows and that's Candace. And there's the other guy, the grown adult that she was fooling with.

Candace Taylor:

And she went and got statements from everybody thinking that maybe that would help. But obviously it did not. She was very graphic about sending her kids every weekend with their dad, and that they would spend the whole entire weekend through the entire house in the family room, upstairs in her bedroom, in the juveniles' bedroom, in the kitchen.

Candace Taylor:

Just it's so sickening and disgusting for me and oh my God, there's so many incidences with her... Oh, that she would come by and I would feel very angry with her and she'd know it and she would cry because she would bring the juvenile. And when she would pull up, the juvenile would be the driver of her vehicle. And she'd sit in the back to come to do the visit with my son.

Candace Taylor:

And I felt like then too like, damn, well, if I don't let her see my son and she's going to think I'm moving funny, she's going to get me out of here. And it caused a lot of pain. Okay? And it's not everything that she did and put me through with this and taunt me with it and me having to live with knowing that this

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is going on, and knowing that the juvenile's mother is going through this and only was trying to get her child back.

Candace Taylor:

And she held onto the kid for her sexual preferences. It's disturbing. In my all honest hearts of heart, she does not need to be adopting any children. I don't feel like she needs to be working around any children. I do not feel that she needs to be in anywhere where children have fun, such as parks, amusement in park. It's not okay because she was a very awesome person from when we-

Henna Rasul:

You're on mute Ms. Taylor. Ms. Taylor, you're on mute.

Candace Taylor:

And-

Henna Rasul:

Okay. There you are.

Candace Taylor:

Pardon me?

Henna Rasul:

Okay. You were on mute. So we didn't hear what you said the past minute.

Candace Taylor:

Oh, okay. So my son went over there with her daughter and they were really, really good friends like brothers-

Henna Rasul:

You're on mute again. Oh, there you are. Okay.

Candace Taylor:

Okay. Can you hear me?

Henna Rasul:

Yes.

Candace Taylor:

Okay. Hold on a second. Okay. And they were over there to hang out and Courtad was in the kitchen with the juvenile in front of my son. And the juvenile had took her phone and he was playing with her and she was very body language, sexual, I guess like, "Oh, no, juvenile. Give me back my phone, give me back

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my phone," But body rubbing. And her daughter had said, "Mom, why are you always doing this for the juvenile? And why are we always getting in trouble? And you give him everything and you'd be so mean and rude to us."

Candace Taylor:

And she would curse, Courtad would curse her daughter out and tell her, you're going to threaten her with sending her to her dad's, which she was perfectly okay with that because she loved her dad. And the child began to feel some type of way, but she would tell them, the juvenile's best friend and Cortaid's daughter, she would tell them that they were brothers and sisters when really that's not what was going on.

Candace Taylor:

And I can't even think of a lot of right now because I know I'm kind of stuck because there's so much years worth of things that she had done with the juvenile. And I had the messages and one day I just decided, I broke down and I cried and I reached out for help with friends and a few friends that I had that I was afraid to tell because I didn't know if they would go in and I'm like, "What do I do?" I don't know what to do anymore. I can't keep dealing with this. I don't want to hear no more."

Candace Taylor:

And everyone's like, "You can't beat yourself over it because you're not the one that's doing this, you know right from wrong. And she works for school district. She knows better. There's videos. There's this there's that. And you're not wrong for telling her now, telling on her." So I with that support that I had, and I still was afraid, and I reached out to the police and they told me to come meet them.

Candace Taylor:

And I went into the school and there was this room and I wrote down some things, and then I handed the phone over. And I told them things that wasn't in the text messages and I was pretty jacked up that it all happened like that. And I'm really hurt too because she hurt my son. Not that she did anything to him, but that she hurt him because her daughter and my son, that's all they knew.

Candace Taylor:

And that's all really the friend that she ever had. And they both looked out for one another and they don't have that no more and it's because of her. And it's because of her that the juvenile, he doesn't have his mother because of her. And it's not fair to nobody. It's not fair to his mom. It's not fair to her kids. It's not fair to her ex-husband, it's not fair to nobody. And she will not need to be out here to hurt nobody else's child. She doesn't.

Henna Rasul:

Thank you Ms. Taylor, thank you very much. I'm going to just let the board ask you some questions if they have any, if that's okay?

Candace Taylor:

Yeah, that's fine.

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Phil Seitz:

I'm very sorry about this whole thing. I totally apologize. Just on the sheer premise of being occupational therapist field for many, many years, I apologize that happened.

Henna Rasul:

Okay. Well, there are no more witnesses, so that concludes my case. I'm going to forego the closing and I'm just going to go straight to the recommended discipline. So what I would be asking for is revocation for 10 years, because that's the max amount. To date, the attorney's fees and costs are \$4,120 plus today's fees, which would include Sophia and myself.

Henna Rasul:

Prior to considering respondents new occupational therapy license application should she attempt to apply after the 10 years, she would need to submit proof to the board satisfaction that any and all court orders and stipulations related to the fore mentioned case in Clark County, Las Vegas Justice Court.

Henna Rasul:

Including, but not limited to completion of any applicable terms of incarceration, completion of any applicable terms and conditions related to parole, and or probation, completion of any applicable counseling, treatment and or psychiatric services, completion of any applicable community service, completion of any applicable educational programs, and payment in full related to any legal parole and or probation costs affiliated with respondents' case in justice court, Courtad case in justice court.

Henna Rasul:

After meeting items stipulated in the afore-mentioned, to the board satisfaction, the respondent may submit an application including the associated cost and fees for a new occupational therapy license and any other requirements as of that date.

Henna Rasul:

Courtad, she will not be eligible for licensure in the state via endorsement or reciprocity of any occupational therapy license held in any other state that has been revoked, suspended or disciplined within the previous five years.

Henna Rasul:

This new application would need to comply with any applicable NRS & NAC pertaining to criminal background checks including fingerprinting and any affiliated costs or fees pursuant to NRS 622, 360, any positive criminal history resulting from the background check including any criminal history, during the period when Courtad was previously licensed by the board may be grounds to refuse her license application.

Henna Rasul:

If the board following its examination of Courtad accepts her occupational therapy application, her newly issued occupational therapy license will be placed on probation for three years. The board at the time of the approval of her application may order, made by order of the board, establish any limitations

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or restrictions on her licensed or practice as an occupational therapist as may be determined by the board at the time of approval.

Henna Rasul:

Any actions taken by the board will be reported to the National Data Bank, and any other banks or data banks that are required by law, the National Board For Certification In Occupational Therapy and American Occupational Therapy Association. That's it. I know it was quite lengthy. So I'm going to now close my case and just leave it to the board to deliberate.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much.

Sophia Long:

And madam chair, if I may just procedurally moving forward, you're going to have up to four votes. So first, if you can just vote to determine that Ms. Courtad was given proper legal notice of the hearing today.

Sophia Long:

And if so, then your second vote will be whether the board determined that Ms. Courtad is in violation of any of the counts in the complaint. So there's four counts total. So whether she's in violation of all four, or one, or three, or whatever it is. So whether she violated any of the count.

Henna Rasul:

Sophia there's only one count.

Sophia Long:

Oh.

Henna Rasul:

I think you're looking at the first complaint that was sent out. But the third complaint a notice of hearing is-

Sophia Long:

I apologize, I'm sorry, then whether she's in violation of that one count, and if she is, then your third vote will be in assessing the discipline, whether you want to assess discipline based on Ms. Rasul's recommendation or something different. And then your last vote will be to determine whether you want to award the attorney's fees.

Allison Stone:

Okay. Thank you. So let's look at the first thing that we need to address, which is if she was provided with proper legal notice of hearing, does the board have any discussion on this matter? Or can I get a motion for that.

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Phil Seitz:

I second the motion. It seems like Loretta had tried numerous times to reach out to her via certified mail without any response.

Sophia Long:

That would be a first.

Sol Magpantay:

So Phil is first. You're the first motion, Phil.

Phil Seitz:

Oh, first motion. I agree must move forward.

Allison Stone:

Thank you. And is there a second?

Sol Magpantay:

I second the motion that Ms. Courtad was given notice about these proceedings.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. All in favor that she was provided with adequate notice of hearing, say "Aye."

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

All those opposed? Okay, motion carries. Moving on to the second thing we need to discuss, is the violation. Whether we find that she is or is not in violation of the one count that was presented. I open for discussion or any motion at this time.

Sol Magpantay:

Okay. I think Ms. Jennifer Courtad is in violation of... I don't know the first and only right. Yeah.

Phil Seitz:

I second that.

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Allison Stone:

Perfect.

Sophia Long:

Madame Chair and board members, if you can have some discussion as far as what you heard that leads you to believe that she is in violation.

Sol Magpantay:

Yeah, she's in-

Phil Seitz:

Go ahead, Sol.

Sol Magpantay:

Yeah, she's in violation with inappropriate sexual relationship with a minor.

Sophia Long:

And what leads you to believe that?

Sol Magpantay:

Whatever the mom says and Ms. Candace Taylor reported, and also because they read... What was that? The one that Loretta sent. The evidences. I read it and they have all the text messages there.

Phil Seitz:

I second the motion.

Sophia Long:

And Phil, why do you believe that she's in violation?

Phil Seitz:

I believe she's in violation because of the testimony that's been provided today by Candace Taylor and the juvenile's mother, as well as the exhibits that have been presented in this case.

Allison Stone:

I also think there was quite a bit of evidence provided, both written and in the testimony, as well, that I think overwhelmingly shows that there definitely was an inappropriate relationship that was with the juvenile. Sophia, do you want another motion since there was discussion provided or do you want us to go ahead and vote on the motion?

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Sophia Long:

You can vote on the motion, please. Thank you.

Allison Stone:

Okay. All those in favor of finding Ms. Courtad in violation of the one count, say "Aye."

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Any opposed? Okay, motion carries. Moving onto the third item that needs address, we need to look at the disciplinary action and whether we want to go with the current recommendations, or there warrants to be some discussion on alternatives for the disciplinary action. I open the floor to discussion or to a motion regarding the discipline.

Phil Seitz:

I make a motion to accept our counsel's recommendations in regards to her disciplinary sanctions. I agree with what she has put forth.

Sol Magpantay:

I second the motion. I think Ms. Henna Rasul said it's the fullest extent, the 10 years.

Allison Stone:

Perfect. All those in favor of assessing the disciplinary punishment that was put out by Mrs. Rasul, please say "Aye."

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.



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Allison Stone:

All opposed? Perfect, motion carries. And the fourth item of business is assessing the attorney fees for any of the fees that were incurred up to today and including today's fees.

Sophia Long:

And Madame President and members of the board, included in your motion, if you would wish to assess attorney's fees, you have to say language that specifically says that you believe the attorney's fees are reasonable, necessary, and actually occurred.

Sol Magpantay:

Reasonable, necessary. Got that.

Sophia Long:

And the dollar amount.

Phil Seitz:

How much is a total, right now? It's \$4,000 something. I don't know exactly what.

Sol Magpantay:

Plus today's. How much is the total?

Sophia Long:

I believe Mrs. Rasul gave out a number earlier and she looks to be looking for it.

Henna Rasul:

As of today, sorry. I was looking for it. \$4,120, and our office, we bill at a rate of \$160...

Sophia Long:

\$163, I believe?

Henna Rasul:

Okay, \$163 an hour. It's an hour and a half. [crosstalk 01:16:02]

Phil Seitz:

About \$200 an hour? Jesus.

Henna Rasul:

Add...

Phil Seitz:

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75?

Sol Magpantay:

111 is three... \$4,400.

Sophia Long:

And I'm sorry, Madame Chair, you can do the dollar amount, which is \$4,120, whatever Henna said, plus an hour and a half is fine, too. Yeah

Sol Magpantay:

Okay.

Sophia Long:

Yeah. Sorry.

Allison Stone:

Thank you. Is there any discussion from the board regarding the recoupment of the attorney's fees or can I get a motion with the specific language that was provided?

Phil Seitz:

So let me make sure I understand this, so if we make this motion, we are making the defendant responsible for the attorney's fees? Yes? Okay.

Allison Stone:

Correct. It would be all the investigation, the attorney fees for leading up to this, and today that would be part of her discipline.

Sol Magpantay:

And there are the languages that we have to say?

Allison Stone:

Reasonable. Necessary.

Sol Magpantay:

Reasonable. Reasonable, necessary.

Allison Stone:

And actually occurred.

Sol Magpantay:

Actually occurred. And it's \$4,900?

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Allison Stone:

\$4,120 plus the one and a half hours, including today.

Sol Magpantay:

Okay. I move the motion for the assessment of attorneys fees that the defendant, Ms. Jennifer Courtad, will pay. It is reasonable, necessary, and it actually occurred, for the amount of \$4,120 plus the one hour and a half of Ms. Henna Rasul and Ms. Sophia Long today.

Allison Stone:

Thank you. Can I get a second?

Phil Seitz:

I second that motion.

Allison Stone:

All those in favor of adding the attorney's fees to the defendant, as the attorney fees, we believe, are reasonable, necessary, and actually occurred in the amount of \$4,120, plus the 1.5 hours for today's sessions, please say "Aye."

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Opposed? All right, motion carries. And I believe that is it for this discipline disciplinary hearing, unless there is something else that we need to do.

Henna Rasul:

Nope, we're done. Thank you, Sophia.

Sophia Long:

Thank you.

Allison Stone:

Thank you, ladies. All right. Moving onto item number four on the complaint case... I'm sorry, item number five. Complaint case number C22-02. Loretta, did you want to speak to this?

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Loretta Ponton:

Yes. In this complaint case, C22-02, after review of all documentation received regarding the reference complaint, it's been determined that there is insufficient evidence to file a formal complaint for hearing before the board, and the facts set forth of accusations are insufficient to establish a violation of chapter 640A of the Nevada [inaudible 01:19:37] statutes or the Nevada administrative code KC2202 alleged unprofessional conduct and violation of the code of ethics and standards of practice.

Allison Stone:

Right, well, at this time, I think we'll just need a motion for dismissal. Is that correct?

Loretta Ponton:

Right.

Sol Magpantay:

Okay. I move the motion for recommendation for dismissal of complaint, case number C22-02.

Liz Straughan:

This is Liz, I second.

Phil Seitz:

This is Phil, I second or third.

Allison Stone:

All those in favor of the dismissal of the complaint case number C22-02, please say "Aye."

Elizabeth Straughan:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye.

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

All opposed? All right. Motion carries. Moving on to item number six, our legislative report.

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Loretta Ponton:

This is Loretta Ponton. I'd like to introduce Jeanette Belz of Belz and Case. She is our lobbyist and she will be providing the report for you today.

Jeanette Belz:

Good afternoon. Thank you very much, Mrs. Ponton. There is a document in your packet that includes a one page summary of what has occurred pertinent to the board since the last board meeting. Overall, I just wanted to say that we are following a lot of interim committee proceedings because there's been attention put to occupational licensing boards and what's going on with them in a number of those venues. One I wanted to highlight was the Interim Commerce and Labor Committee. Those are review committees that are leading in the interim. It's a joint senate and assembly, and at the April 5th meeting, director [inaudible 01:21:49], who is the director of DETR, which is the Department of Employment Training and Rehabilitation, mentioned that she's working with the governor's office to elevate his priorities specifically relating to occupational licensees reform.

Jeanette Belz:

We know that the governor, in his sort of state of the state address that he gave earlier this year, mentioned that he was going to be putting together a bipartisan task force to further reduce red tape relating to occupational licensing, since this report was created as of May fourth, there's been a couple of other committees that are not on the report. Both of them relate to veterans and veterans affairs, and at both meetings, it was mentioned that the governor's task force on licensing would be examining issues specifically related to veterans and their spouses. The only other thing I would like to add to this report is that the governor will be suspending the emergency declaration as of 5/20, so we will go back to the way things were in March of 2020. And lastly, the primary is coming up on June 14th. Several races will be decided in the primary, so I urge you all to take a look at the sample ballots that will be coming array and vote.

Loretta Ponton:

Thank you, Jeanette.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. Any questions before we move on?

Allison Stone:

All right. Item number seven, discussion and consideration of bills to be presented at the 2023 session for Nevada [inaudible 01:23:44]. I will turn that over to you, Loretta.

Loretta Ponton:

Okay. Thank you very much. I've asked Jeanette to help me here. We've been discussing legislation, the upcoming session in relation to the OT Compact impact on the board of occupational therapy. If we were to go seek legislation to join that, we've done a lot of research also concerning the Compact... And I know we had the Compact on for discussion at our retreat, but August is really a little bit too late to get

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started if we want to do some legislation for this next session, so the intent of this item is to just throw out there. I gave you the kitchen sink, as you saw in the packet for legislative items, we want to discuss where we want to go this next legislative session if, in fact, we want to go anywhere with it. We can do full board, take on every single issue that I've identified here for you, or we can sit back and wait until the next session to see what the OT Compact happens with that, what other states are, that sort of thing.

Loretta Ponton:

So this isn't intended to make the final decision on where we want to go, but your lobbyist and I need direction on where we want to put our emphasis, because if we are going to move forward with a little legislation, medium legislation, or the full board, we need to get working on it immediately and make those contacts out there, especially in this new legislative election year, and get our support and do outreach and contact our stakeholders, so what I'm going to go over with you today is research on the occupational therapy Compact, which currently 19 of the states have actually joined the Compact, but you need to note that of those states, Nevada, we're an independent licensing board. The majority of the states, if not all of them in the United States, are under large state agencies, so there's a different impact to a large state agency than it would be for the independent licensing board states like Nevada is where we are a lot more autonomous and have a lot more control over what we're doing than under an umbrella agency.

Loretta Ponton:

In first thing, looking at this in regards to the OT Compact, is that even though it took 10 states to pass it for the OT Compact to become effective. So it's now effective, so now they've created the Compact commission. That Compact commission is kind of a great big board like we are. They have to go through and they have to make their rules and regulations on how they're going to operate and how they're going to put together all the data systems to collect information, how they're going to issue the privilege to practice under the Compact. Their first meeting will be in August of this year, and the information that I've been able to glean that it will take one to two years, if not a little bit longer, for that process to become solidified and actually the first privilege being issued to a Compact member state.

Loretta Ponton:

So it is going to be a long process. It's not something that we have to jump on right now, unless you want to be on the forefront with it. Not only is it a long process at the national level for the Compact, but it's a very long process at the state level, because it would entail having to go through our legislation and revise it, and then have to pass a legislative session. The Compacts have not had a great success in Nevada in passing the legislative session. The Physical Therapy Board, for example, will be going for the third time, the third session. So that means it's been six years that they've been into this process and it has not yet passed. The same thing could happen with OT Compact. It could pass on first try, it could not pass. The impact to this board is great one way or the other.

Loretta Ponton:

So I'm just going to kind of go through this. The biggest barrier that we have is we do not require criminal background checks, okay? To get that authority, it would have to be in legislation, it would have to pass through the legislature, and then that legislation needs to be codified into our NRS, and codified

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means it has to be formally incorporated into our Nevada revised statutes by the Legislative Council Bureau, which could take one to two years to get it codified, and then once it's codified, you have to do application to the federal FBI to get authority to do fingerprinting, and you can't do that till it's codified. So then right there, that's another two year process. One of the eligibility requirements for the OT Compact is that you have to do fingerprint background checks. It's not clear whether you have to have that in your legislation when you apply for OT Compact, or whether it's something that can happen down the road.

Loretta Ponton:

Those are the unknowns on that. But that is a big process in this state of Nevada. We did a little preliminary survey that went out, which I provided a copy of that to you in this packet, we sent it out to every current OT and OTA that had an active license. We didn't send it to the inactive licensees. We didn't get a huge response. We got 3.3% of those people that responded to that, and I did a little summary of that response for you in that packet, and we can go over that in a few minutes if you'd like, but I'd like to go through the summary of the whole thing first before we go into the specifics of each one.

Loretta Ponton:

Okay. Some of the takeaways from the survey was that our current licensing system is very expedient. When applications are submitted online, they're reviewed, approved, and issued normally within three business days of submittal. The survey indicated that expediency was very, very important to our licensees. If we did the criminal background check, we would have to do additional revisions to our NRS and possibly come up with a way to address the expediency issues, because background checks take three to six weeks and they've been running more on the six week and later timeline for that. So that would push back the ability to do a license, so one of the thoughts I had to address that would be maybe we could do something with our temporary licenses, pending receipt of the background check, I did some preliminary legislative language I gave to you there to address that.

Loretta Ponton:

I also came up with a different scenario, an alternative which I'm calling reciprocity provisions, which would require minimal revisions to our licensing system. If we go Compact, then our whole data collection system would have to be modified, and there's a cost to that. And I'll talk about that alternative after I go through the rest of this here. With the OT Compact, by law, our board as an independent licensing board must pay all of their costs from the fees received from our licensees. We get no support from the state, there's no general fund support like the big umbrella boards, they kind of can move money around and borrow from this and borrow from that and pay them back later. We don't have that ability to do that.

Loretta Ponton:

The actual privileged practice is not a license in the state of Nevada. They apply to the OT Compact commission. They pay a fee to the compact commission, which they will establish what those fees are. We can establish a privileged practice fee, and historically looking at the other Compacts that are in active and moving in the nation, they're averaging only about \$50 for a Compact to privilege in anywhere. Some of them are \$20, some of them are \$75, but on average, it's only a \$50 fee that a

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person would have to pay to have a privilege to practice in the state of Nevada. They pay that fee one time. There's no renewal of a privilege to practice as long as they maintain a current license in their home state and they would renew that license, [inaudible 01:34:49], whatever that. So the only fees that the board would receive would be the initial privilege to practice fee. Our current licensing fees for OT, including application, is \$400.

Loretta Ponton:

Renewal fees are \$250. So we would be losing a significant amount of fees, roughly guessing that would equate to about \$20,000 a year plus any license renewal fees that would've been associated with those licenses if they had been licensed in this state. In addition to that, the OT Compact commission can charge the states a fee as a member state, because they have to be able to pay for their costs, also. They're going to have a national database that's going to be costly to maintain, so just as a reference, because this is the first time it's come up in Nevada, the Psych Compact just assessed them \$90 per individual who had a compact privilege in the state of Nevada. So there was a hundred people who had a Compact privilege, that's \$9,000 that we would have to pay to the compact commission. We have no idea, really, how many people would want to have a privilege to practice in Nevada, and we don't really have a good feel for how many Nevada residents would want a compact privilege to practice in another state.

Loretta Ponton:

All I can go on is very limited data here, but I'm extrapolating things for you so that you have a feel what the impact could be. We currently have 372 practitioners who have out of state addresses. The OT Compact really benefits travelers, telehealth practitioners, and military, and spouses of veterans. Those are the primary targets for this compact privilege. If 50% of the practitioners who currently have out-of-state addresses, which we're assuming they're either temporary in the state of Nevada or they're working by telehealth work to apply for the compact privilege. That's where I came up with the \$21,000. It would cost us fees. Uncollected licensure fees for practice in the state of Nevada.

Loretta Ponton:

And the cost is a big thing, but it shouldn't be everything. There are other associated costs, which we don't know what they would be at this time. As I stated, the long term impact, we really can't project that. So after looking at all of this and talking among staff and Jeanette, we had a real good brainstorming session. I kind of came up with an alternative legislation in lieu of joining the OT Compact. That alternative would be doing some legislation that would give reciprocity to individuals who reside in Compact states who want to practice in Nevada. If we were a member state, those that would have asked for a Compact privilege in the state.

Loretta Ponton:

By doing a reciprocity for a practitioner that is licensed in an OT Compact state, this legislation would supplement what we already have for our endorsement language for the military individuals and military affiliated individuals and the practitioners that were licensed in another state. Again, I want to point out that we don't technically do licenses by endorsement, currently, and we wouldn't technically do a reciprocity license because our current licensure process is already expedited one to three business days and we can't get any faster than that. So this would be language that, if for some reason our



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systems changed and it took us longer to do this, then we could fall back on our authority in NRS for reciprocity and endorsement to maintain a quicker process for licensing.

Loretta Ponton:

Under this alternative proposal, we would still require full NBCOT certification, verification of licensure status, and a completion of our jurisprudence exam. That's what we require of all of our licensees now. So it would not change any of those requirements, it would not put any additional requirements on anybody, and it would keep the licensing process as quick and expedient as possible in the state Nevada. So that's kind of the general overview. We've got the OT Compact that would require, first, legislation to join the compact, second, legislation to authorize criminal background checks, and then we would have to implement criminal background checks on all licensees, and how that would grandfather in current licensees or new licensees and how that would impact the licensing process is unknown, but I would say that it would be more detrimental to the process than facilitating the process of expedited licensure barriers to licensure in the state of Nevada.

Loretta Ponton:

Along with these proposals, while I was working on legislation, I threw in a few other sections of our law that if we do some legislation, we might want to add these sections in there, also, so that we're not just going in with one or two things that potentially reflect the current status of our licensure process, clean up language, deleting information that is no longer current. And I kind of outlined those for you there. So first of all, before we move forward, anybody have any comments or questions? And then I can go into more detail in the specific sections, if you'd like me to.

Phil Seitz:

Well, my two cents worth is the following, and correct me if I'm wrong, but any OT that's practicing here, if they're being employed, they have the employer is conducting a background check on them, correct?

Loretta Ponton:

A lot of employers do require background checks. So yes, in those cases it would be a duplication. Those background checks might not be the same background checks. I don't know whether it's FBI background checks. We have to do the OT Compact requires the full FBI background check. There are lesser background checks just the state of Nevada.

Phil Seitz:

So here's the other part that I guess... I know you've kind of thrown out some figures there, but if there's 300 out of state people with out of state addresses that conceivably are travelers, right, I don't know where that represent 50% of the OTs in the state of Nevada. I guess my point here is the people that live and work here and all of these potential changes are going to come at a cost to the therapist, right? It has to get passed down one way or another. So I'm struggling with that idea.

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Phil Seitz:

I understand the risk reciprocity, I understand the ease of it, I understand the compact, I understand what they're trying to do, I just don't know if that's something that the state of Nevada, I don't know if that's my problem. Not to be mean, but I'm not a traveler. I'm not going to be traveling. Traveling companies spend a lot of money to have travelers expedited to go to certain areas. That's their job, right? And just as you've indicated, right? And I've worked with a lot of travelers out here, they all say Nevada is a very friendly state when it comes to trying to get your license expedited. California's six months for Pete's sakes. I don't know. I'm on the fence.

Sol Magpantay:

My question is because there will be three options - stay the same. The second one will be the alternative that you said endorsement and reciprocity. And the third will be the compact. My point is why have an alternative, which is reciprocity and endorsement when there's a compact already? Because it'll go through the same process anyway. When we say "yes" to compact, it is the same process with the..., I mean going through the legislation. So it's either we just remain the same or go for compact because if you go to the alternative for endorsement and reciprocity, it'll go the same process as the compact.

Loretta Ponton:

Well not exactly.

Phil Seitz:

Not true.

Loretta Ponton:

This is Loretta. We already have in our law endorsement language for individuals who are licensed in another state that come to Nevada and that endorsement language says they have to be processed within 45 days. Okay? We process in three days. So we don't even use that term in endorsement because we give expedited processing to everybody, not just those that are licensed in another state that are coming here.

Loretta Ponton:

Same with the reciprocity. We already give expedited processing, one to three days. However, we have to look at the emphasis of the legislature at the legislative session and the concerns that are being expressed on barriers to employment and barriers to licensure that are being looked at by the state legislature, by the legislative committees, by the governor's office. And they target veterans, they target the military. We're ahead of the game because we've already addressed all of that.

Loretta Ponton:

But it doesn't say that we're already doing it in our law. If we use the word reciprocity, even though it would have no real effect in the way we process applications and licenses get issued, it is something that

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the legislature would be very happy with to say, "look what we've done. We are addressing reciprocity in the state of Nevada and we're addressing barriers to licensure by granting reciprocity".

Loretta Ponton:

So it's really two things. One is the perception from the outside looking at us and the other is our reality is we give everybody equal treatment, no matter what they do, where they come from or what their affiliation is. That is our goal as the board of occupational therapy, that everybody is equal in being able to obtain their license in a quick and efficient manner. But then you look at the legislators, they're looking from the outside and remembering it's not just our board. They're looking at all of the boards and we would get lumped in. If they do something to address a problem, they may have with a dental board, they may throw in all the licensing boards. And so we want to be able to have something that says, look, we've already addressed that problem. It's right here in our law. See, we've addressed that, you don't need to do anything else with us when you don't have that word in there. If they can't see it in writing, then they don't believe it.

Sol Magpantay:

So, because my thinking is like, for example, Phil said, he's not planning to be a traveler who's staying here. But what if later on, there are some OTs who live in Nevada who wants to be a consultant or a telehealth practitioner in one of the compact states. I don't know which one, because I saw some who are from... There are more than 10 that signed up, Alabama is one of them, Arizona, which is nearby Colorado, which is kind of near Las Vegas. So I was thinking if I, or one of the OTs from Nevada wants to be a consultant in one of the compact states, then it'll benefit that OT.

Loretta Ponton:

For Nevada to be a compact state, you would benefit if you wanted to go to another compact state.

Sol Magpantay:

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Loretta Ponton:

But as a member of the compact state, any practitioner can obtain a single state license in any state. You don't have to do the privilege to practice. So if you wanted to go do telehealth in Utah, you can always apply to Utah for their license.

Sol Magpantay:

But for me I have a California license that I'm keeping active up to now. I was like, if I renew my license here and I renew my license there and my NBCOT, that's a thousand dollars total. And then my AOTA membership. But if Nevada is part of the compact state and, or let's say from Colorado, which is part of the compact state wanted to practice here, because remember we don't have enough OTs that will serve the rural areas for telehealth. So let's say an OT from Colorado, who's part of the compact state. Nevada, who's part of the compact state. And there's a Colorado who will give a telehealth service in the rural Nevada then it'll benefit them. I'm not thinking of Las Vegas and Reno. I'm thinking of the rural areas that are not rich by other OTs.

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Loretta Ponton:

Yeah. And that is the benefit of the compact.

Elizabeth Straughan:

The problem I see in having asked Loretta for some information is that that person doesn't get a Nevada license.

Loretta Ponton:

Mm-hmm (affirmative), mm-hmm (affirmative).

Elizabeth Straughan:

Okay. So we a) miss funding, but we also... What do we do if that person does something appropriate in the state of Nevada with their compact license? I don't know what kind of control we have then. And if they're not licensed, we're not getting the money to actually have the cash to say, prosecute or whatever, too.

Sol Magpantay:

But will the compact, the OT compact board have it? It'll be under them?

Elizabeth Straughan:

That's a Loretta question.

Loretta Ponton:

They have to have a current home state license. So if they live in California and California is a compact state, they have to maintain that license. And they have to do the continuing education and whatever requirements it is for that state where they have a home state license. If Nevada was then a member of compact state and they wanted to work in Nevada, they would just ask for a privilege to practice from the compact commission and pay a small fee to the compact commission.

Loretta Ponton:

And they would then... They would be eligible to practice in the state of Nevada by telehealth or however they, temporary license, whatever they wanted to come over here. If there was a disciplinary issue come up, we would still be responsible for following our disciplinary process and reporting that process to the compact commission and most likely the home state, but we would still incur those costs of that disciplinary process, like the investigation and everything else to make that determination. But then that would fall back to the compact... My understanding is, and again, it's so early, I'm not sure how it's going to work because they're still working on the... They have to develop the system, the actual disciplinary action. We can't take discipline against a compact privilege. It would go to the commission or their home state. So there's a process that needs to be worked out there. And of course that would then be additional costs to our board also.

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Sol Magpantay:

But I was thinking, is it that the attorney's fees are paid by... The attorneys fees are paid by the one... Let's say the one that we had, whoever is the person who had disciplinary actions. They're the one who's going to pay the attorneys fees. However, the investigation, can it be through the fine that they had?

Loretta Ponton:

Well, first of all, we can assess legal fees. Doesn't mean that we collect them. We have accounts receivable out there from disciplinary actions where people never pay. So that will be another discussion at another meeting.

Sol Magpantay:

And I think the fines are not paid to the board, right? It goes to the state of Nevada?

Loretta Ponton:

The legal fees come back to us. We don't do fines. The legal fees would come back to us to offset our costs of paying the AG's office for the prosecution. That's why they give us how much it is actual cost. We don't make any money off of it at all. And we don't assess fines. We don't have that authority to assess a fine, but if we have the authority to assess a fine, then that fine would go to the state of Nevada. We still wouldn't be able to keep...

Sol Magpantay:

Yeah, it's not to the board.

Loretta Ponton:

It's just a wash for us. So it's a cost in not just legal fees, but in your own staff and operational cost to investigator to investigate, we can't recoup the cost of the investigator. Only the legal fees.

Allison Stone:

This is something I've been kind of back and forth with for the last couple years, thinking about it, our state, one of my, or a couple of my thoughts, and maybe this is a question too. I hate jumping into something without really seeing what they're going to do. Like without knowing the compact laws and rules and having everything and kind of... Us enacting legislation based on suspicion of what may happen. Is it something that a compact, is it something we have to commit to now, or this can be joined at any time, once they kind of have a plan?

Loretta Ponton:

We can join at any time it's effective now, but again, it takes legislation. So we have an opportunity every two years to bring forth legislation. If you would like to push this down the road, we can see how the compact commission comes up with their laws and what their rules will be, what their data systems

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will be. And we could join in two years. We could join in four years. It's not something that we absolutely have to do right now because it's really not even up and running yet. So we don't have those answers.

Allison Stone:

Right. And I really like the idea of the reciprocity for now. Because I think that is something that legislation... I think that's been a big focus of our legislation in the last couple years. So I think starting with something like that, so we at least have that in writing, but I also think the boards have been under exam so much within the Nevada legislation. I also don't know where that's going to go with them anyways, in the next two to four years, who knows what they're going to do and what's going to happen. So I'm definitely not saying no to compacts, but I would definitely like to see kind of where they go with this before we commit to something and not understand the full financial implications or how it's going to affect us or all of these questions that everyone's brought up for sure.

Loretta Ponton:

Right.

Allison Stone:

It be better to see that I think before we do something.

Sol Magpantay:

I guess there's no board yet in Nevada that has been legislated to be part of a compact, am I right? Like nursing board is not part of a compact.

Loretta Ponton:

No. Nursing board has put forth legislation to join the compact and it has not passed.

Sol Magpantay:

Are they under second or still under first?

Loretta Ponton:

There's psychology and it's limited to telehealth and temporary licensees, there's the medical board has a compact and that's medical osteo and osteopath board. [crosstalk 01:59:46] but I think that's the only one. Medical board is the only one that's really operating.

Sol Magpantay:

PT Board. Also is in a compact, but there's still undergoing legislation, no?

Loretta Ponton:

They want to join the PT compact, but this will be the third legislative session. They put forth their PT compact to be passed. It has not passed in the last four years.

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Sol Magpantay:

So no professional Nevada OT board has been legislated or passed to be part of a compact?

Loretta Ponton:

Not in Nevada.

Sol Magpantay:

Not in Nevada, although...

Loretta Ponton:

Only the medical board and the psychology board.

Sol Magpantay:

PTA and psychology did try. We'll just wait and see if they get approved before we do anything. It could take years anyway.

Loretta Ponton:

Yeah. Right.

Sol Magpantay:

And have the OT compact board up and running first?

Allison Stone:

That's kind of what I think, too. Give them a chance to figure it out and then see if it works for us and if we can fit into it.

Loretta Ponton:

Okay, am I hearing kind of a consensus that we're not going to move forward with the full OT compact at this point? Do you have any feelings for whether you want to add the reciprocity provisions and the other small changes that we had to our bill? Shall we move forward with that and see... No guarantee it will go through, but we can try. There's no guarantees with any type of legislation, but if we're going to do it, we need to get working on it now.

Elizabeth Straughan:

I would say "yes".

Allison Stone:

So is that where we need a motion to make that happen?

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Loretta Ponton:

I think you should make a motion to have us move forward with a legislative packet to be brought back to the board. Okay? To include the reciprocity provisions and any other recommended changes to NRS.

Elizabeth Straughan:

I move what Loretta said.

Allison Stone:

Is there a second?

Sol Magpantay:

I second, I think Megan Prado from AOTA has the hands up. Can we acknowledge her first?

Meghan Pudeler:

Hi, everyone.

Allison Stone:

Hold, can I do... Hold on, just sorry. Don't mean to interrupt you. Can I do that since we have a motion on the floor, or do we have to finish first?

Henna Rasul:

I would finish the motion.

Allison Stone:

That's what I thought. Meghan, hold on just a second, please. All those in favor, say "aye".

Sol Magpantay:

Aye.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Aye.

Phil Seitz:

Aye. I'm still not on board with this though.

Allison Stone:

Aye.

Allison Stone:

Well, Phil, this motion is just for the boards to work on legislative changes to bring back to us. So all it is they're working on the language and it'll come back to the Board.



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Phil Seitz:

Gotcha.

Allison Stone:

And this is for reciprocity and endorsement, right?

Phil Seitz:

Right.

Loretta Ponton:

We've already got endorsement.

Allison Stone:

Okay. I'll opposed. Perfect. Motion carries. And then Henna, one question. Am I okay to go ahead and recognize Meghan from AOTA? Or does that have to wait until public comment?

Henna Rasul:

It's at your discretion because you're the chair. You can allow her to speak if you, if she would like, if you would like.

Allison Stone:

Okay, Meghan, go ahead.

Meghan Pudeler:

Yeah. Thank you so much. I wasn't really sure if I was allowed to speak now or if I had to wait until public comments. So I just raised my hand. I don't know if you all saw in the chat as the comments were happening. I just had a couple of things that I wanted to correct. And I also just wanted to let you know that I was here in case there were any questions about the compact that I could help answer for this conversation. So I don't know if it's appropriate for me to talk now, if you'd prefer for me to wait, I guess it's at your discretion.

Allison Stone:

Nope. You can go ahead and talk now. We're just watching time.

Meghan Pudeler:

Okay. Yeah, I'll be really quick. I promise. I'm also watching time. I'm on the east coast. So it's getting kind of late for me here. It's almost at my bedtime.

Allison Stone:

Definitely.

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Meghan Pudeler:

So I just wanted to first just correct about the cost. So every time someone would want to... If you want to get a privilege to practice and say you have a license in Colorado and Colorado has joined the compact and Nevada goes to join it as well. If that person wants to get a privilege to practice in Nevada, they would go to [otcompact.org](http://otcompact.org). They would apply for that privilege to practice. They would pay a small fee of the compact commission. They would also pay a fee of the state of Nevada, which you all would set that's at your discretion. I don't know what the cost is for some of the more comparable compacts. The PT compact does have each state listed out, but that would be at your discretion to be able to recoup those fees. Additionally, every time someone would renew their home state license, they would be renewing their compact privilege and therefore paying the fee again. It's not a one time only fee, so you're not going to lose out on that renewal fee.

Meghan Pudeler:

Also, it's not a requirement to join the licensure compact, it's at folks' discretion. You could end up seeing more people that want to apply for a privilege to practice based off of the ease of it, though. It does sound like you all do process those applications really quickly. So that being said, I do think this compact would be really helpful for folks in the state of Nevada. If they want opportunities outside of the state, California, for instance, might take a little bit longer to accept a license. And also folks would only have to do the continuing education requirements for their home state. So it saves them a lot of time and energy in that space. They only have to keep track of one renewal cycle. So there are a lot of benefits. And I just wanted to say that about the cost, it's also unclear how many folks would really take advantage of this. It's not going to really happen overnight. It's really a ramp up again, like I said, it's not required.

Meghan Pudeler:

The background check issue as well. It's only for those seeking a compact privilege. It wouldn't apply to every single licensee and there would be a sharing of information around disciplinary actions. So you'd be able to see folks that are coming in and making sure that they're not bad actors. That's the whole reason behind the background check. Also, a lot of states will have to do stuff like this around the background checks. It's also a ramp up. It's also something that the compact commission will be working out. A lot of those questions around the disciplinary actions. We'd be more than happy to have the council of state government to be able to give a presentation and kind of explain how things are working in other states. It is a little bit trickier. Usually we would advocate for a board to talk with another board that has enacted the compact, just because I think sometimes that's really helpful to kind of understand how it's working for them.

Meghan Pudeler:

And I guess too, I just was a little confused about how the actual reciprocity would work and the reciprocity sounds like it would help folks coming into the state, but not do much for folks in the state of Nevada. We think the compact would've been really helpful during the pandemic. We know a lot of folks had clients that went into other states and the question really became "can I utilize telehealth to reach my client". And in a lot of cases that wasn't the case. They would've had to get a license in that state. So the compact would've allowed them to be able to get that license really quickly. So it does allow for our

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continuity of care. It's not just for... it is great for practitioners. It does offer a lot of opportunities there. It offers a lot for military spouses and military, but it also does a lot for patients and helps with the continuity of care. And just the overall sharing of information is really great. We think that it'll really help with the overall licensure and just make it a little bit stronger.

Meghan Pudeler:

And I'm just trying to go through my comments just to make sure if I missed anything else that you all might want to know.

Meghan Pudeler:

Let's see.

Elizabeth Straughan:

How many boards do you know of that are freestanding as opposed to already in a structured setting?

Meghan Pudeler:

That's a great question. I don't have the exact number, but I do know there are a number of boards that are free standing and not just attached to... It's not like an advisory council and I can get back to you with that information and I'd be more than happy to connect you all with a board that is freestanding that enacted the compact. If that's helpful for you all, as you research and explore.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. We'd appreciate your help. And we appreciate your comments.

Meghan Pudeler:

Yes. Thank you.

Allison Stone:

All right. Moving on to agenda item number eight, the executive director report.

Loretta Ponton:

Okay. I did provide you the written report in the board packet. I'm not going to repeat myself and go through this. You also have your financials as of March 31st. And I did want to point out that our licensing fees aren't... Have been affected due to the provisions we made with COVID and lower licensing numbers. As we are on a two year renewal cycle, that we may come under budget on revenue of maybe \$20 to \$25,000. But I won't know that until June, when all the fees are collected. We are in our renewal cycle now. Over half of our licensees renew by June 30th. So we'll have much better numbers to report at our next session.

Loretta Ponton:

I did want to report that even though I said I didn't have any new active complaints. I now have one active new complaint that has been received since this was sent out. What information not contained in

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the written report is that we have begun are continuing education audit for 2022, 211 licensees were selected for audit. Of those, 113 had already uploaded their continuing education documents. So we were able to desk audit those 113, the remaining 98 have been sent notices to send in their documentation. And they're coming in smoothly. That just went out this last month or this last week matter of fact. Let's see if I have anything else. I'm continually contacting the governor's office on status of board appointments. They are way behind on appointments to the board.

Loretta Ponton:

And Sol has been so gracious to continue in her position to help us during this, this time of need. We will be having two more individuals terms coming to the end. December 31st, Liz will not be eligible to renew. So there'll be another position opening there, and Phil is eligible to renew. He... And I will contact you Phil and let you know how to resubmit for reappointment if you are interested in being reappointed to the board. I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have on the information that was provided in the written report.

Phil Seitz:

I just need to get going. I got to... I'm playing to show tonight, so I got to get in a shower and roll, but I appreciate everybody's time. Good seeing everybody. Sorry, but I got to bounce.

Henna Rasul:

Thank you so much.

Allison Stone:

Any questions for Loretta before we move on. All right. And I was actually going to see item number nine, discussion of the revision of a regulations to see if that was an item that could be tabled for another meeting. Just, it's time. Most people have to get off and get going.

Loretta Ponton:

Yes.

Henna Rasul:

Yes.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. So item number nine will be tabled for our next meeting. And number 10 report from deputy attorney general.

Henna Rasul:

I think you've heard enough from me today. No report. Thank you so much.

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Allison Stone:

And item number 11, board activities and reports from members and possible appointment for a financial reviewer. I think with Phil leaving we may have to wait for that again, unless there's anybody that wants to take over the financial reviewer role.

Allison Stone:

No. Loretta can we table the appointment for financial reviewer to our next meeting when we have our other two members back?

Loretta Ponton:

Yes, we can do that.

Allison Stone:

It doesn't sound like Liz is jumping on that chance.

Elizabeth Straughan:

I'm feeling very old. Okay?

Allison Stone:

Is there any other board activities or reports that we need to discuss before moving on to our last agenda item?

Allison Stone:

All right. Hearing none then item number 12. I'll open the floor back up for public comment. If anyone has any other public comments, the only thing I ask is please keep it brief just to our time.

Loretta Ponton:

Paula.

Paula Cook:

I have my hand up Allie. Sorry.

Allison Stone:

You know, guys, I'm going to be honest. I see none of that. Cause I'm on my phone. So just shouting. Yeah. Cause I don't see any comments or any hand raises any of that. So just let me know if you'd like to speak.

Paula Cook:

I would like to speak Allie, Paula Cook. Thank you.

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Allison Stone:

I will recognize you. Go right ahead.

Paula Cook:

Thank you, Allie. Thank you board. And thank you Loretta. I want to thank you all on the work you've done so far with the compact. I know there's a ton that goes into it and lots involved with it, especially on your end. So thank you for the survey. I just wanted to... And I'll be quick. I know it's late. I wanted to point out a couple of things with your survey. There was a lot of support for keeping it expedited, but there was also a lot of support for background checks and for the compact, I just wanted to get that on the record as well. I know that was in the board packet. I just wanted to mention that NOTA did a survey as well. And there was also a lot of support. We had 21 respondents. We only had it open for a day.

Paula Cook:

Honestly, my hope was that we could all NOTA that the Nevada board have a presentation by AOTA so that we could all learn more about it. That's what I'm hearing from everybody is they either support it or don't, they're very, very interested in it and they want to know more about it. So, I would like to host a session from AOTA so that people can learn more of the nuts and bolts about it before making any final decisions about it. In our survey, we had 21 respondents and we had 18 in favor of it, but lots of questions about it. So again, I would like to host an information session with AOTA.

Paula Cook:

And I'm not sure on the benefit of moving forward with the reciprocity. I think the benefits to Nevada practitioners are questionable. And if we're going to spend money on moving forward with legislation and a lobbyist in that regard, I'm just not sure I understand the benefits of reciprocity. So I would be, I don't know, interested in continuing that discussion and I appreciate that there's no final decision and that we will revisit this. So that's all. I'd like to host something with AOTA so that everybody could get their questions answered more. That's it. Thank you.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. Does anyone else have any public comment that they would like to make at this time? Just again, just shout, yell at me because I don't see hand raising.

Sol Magpantay:

I think I'll be attending the May 25 with AOTA about something I forgot. I want to be informed. I have so many questions too. So that's why.

Allison Stone:

I agree, and Sol thank you so much for being here today. Last call for public comments.

Elizabeth Straughan:

Meghan.

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Allison Stone:

All right. Moving on to item. Very good item....

Meghan Pudeler

Sorry. I just wanted to say that the May 25th event is our state regulatory forum and there will be a conversation about ethics. It's not related to the compact, but like I said, we're more than happy to host a webinar for the board, the board in conjunction with the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association, with the council of state governments to answer any questions that you all have, anything that we can do to be a resource as you all put together legislation or consider where you're going. We'd love to help.

Allison Stone:

Thank you so much. Any other comments? All right. Moving on to item number 13 meeting is adjourned. Thank you guys so much.