

IOWA BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY

**April 10, 2014
Conference Call**

**Origination site:
5th Floor Professional Licensure Conference Room 526
Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa**

Reason for the Conference Call

This board meeting was held by conference call to ensure timely action by the board on a time sensitive matter. It was not feasible to hold an in-person meeting, due to the anticipated short duration of the meeting. In accordance with Iowa Code section 21.8, access to the meeting was provided to members of the public through attendance at the origination site.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm by vice chairman, Brandon Davis.

Roll Call

Members Present:

Heidi Vermeer-Quist, Psy.D.

Melinda Green, Ph.D.

Ralph Scott, Ph.D.

Brandon Davis, Ph.D.

Sarah Henderson, Public Member

Members Absent:

John Dilley, Ed.D.

Staff Present:

Sharon Dozier, Board Executive

Public present:

Brett Valette, Ph.D., license applicant

Application of Brett Valette, Ph.D.

Brandon Davis stated that his understanding is that Dr. Valette has requested that the discussion regarding his application be held in open session. He then asked Dr. Valette to respond to the board's request that he speak to the information regarding the previous discipline action by the Colorado Board.

Dr. Valette affirmed that he wishes to discuss this matter in open session. He stated that the two complaints that were filed against him in Colorado were filed by the same case manager on behalf of two disability applicants for whom he had completed evaluations approximately 6 to 8 weeks earlier. In both cases, the disability applications had been denied. He noted that he did not provide therapy to either applicant, that he was hired solely to complete the evaluations.

Following notification from the board, he hired an attorney and submitted a response to the state board. The allegation regarding one of the applicants was unprofessional conduct. He stated this pertained to asking an applicant with children in foster care about continuing to have children if unable to care for them. He noted that he sometimes needs to ask direct questions in order to complete an effective evaluation. The allegation regarding the other applicant was a failure to provide an adequate summary. In that case, he noted that the board was unable to cite any specific inadequacy. However, after consulting with his family and professional colleagues, he decided not to contest the charges. He subsequently complied with the board's mandated continuing education hours. He noted that he believes the charges were undeserved, and stated his evaluation reports are thorough.

Melinda Green asked Dr. Valette about any changes made in his practice as a result of the discipline action. Valette responded that he has modified his disclosure statement, to assure that the applicants do not confuse his role with that of a therapist. He is more careful to explain clearly the parameters of his report, how to access the report, and tries to ensure that applicants are comfortable at the outset of the evaluation. He is also more cautious and aware. Vermeer-Quist asked how long he has been doing disability evaluations. Dr. Valette responded that he has done forensic evaluations since 1996 or 1997, and had discontinued therapy work. He completes approximately 1000 evaluations per year, for state agencies, attorneys, and the courts. Davis asked what type of practice he plans to pursue in Iowa. Valette stated he will complete disability evaluations in Iowa, and possibly in other states.

Scott made a motion to approve the application for a license submitted by Brett Valette.

Vermeer-Quist seconded the motion. The motion carried, unanimous.

Next Board Meeting

May 30, 2014

Adjournment

A motion was made by Vermeer-Quist to adjourn the meeting at 2:32 p.m. A second was received from Henderson. All ayes, opposed none, motion carried.

The minutes were approved at the May 30, 2014 board meeting.