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## Meeting summary for FMHCA Monthly GRC Meeting (07/17/2024)

### Quick recap

The team discussed the new background screening requirements for healthcare providers under the Department of Health, the upcoming requirement for background screening for all licensees under Chapter 491, and the implications of the compact for interns licensed in Florida. Lastly, they discussed the importance of maintaining proper records for clients, a new attestation requirement for private practices, and the need to modify the policy manual of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

### Next steps

- Dr. Aaron to draft a proposal for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to modify their policy manual to accept diagnoses from 491 board licensees.
- Derek and Kathie to collaborate on creating a webinar proposal about record-keeping requirements and Florida administrative codes for mental health professionals.
- Dr. Aaron to consult with Corinne regarding the timing of presenting the new rule recommendation to the 491 board.
- Dr. Aaron to send the new rule recommendation on FMHCA letterhead to the executive director of the 491 board.
- Taurean, Carlos, and Derek to form a subcommittee to work on the issue of DOE accepting records from 491 board licensees for student accommodations.

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### Summary

#### New Background Screening Requirements Discussed

Dr. Dr. Aaron, Corinne, and Michael discussed the new background screening requirements for all healthcare providers under the Department of Health. Corinne clarified that the screening, referred to as Level 2, involves a federal and state background check, with costs starting at \$75 for the initial process and \$42 for retention every five years. The requirement applies to all licensed healthcare providers, not just those under the 4, 91 board, and would be implemented during the 2025 renewal cycle. Dr. Dr. Aaron added that the upcoming requirement for background screening for all licensees under Chapter 491 would also apply during the 2025 renewal cycle and would likely involve fingerprinting. He also mentioned that the Ori number would be relevant in

this process and that the counseling compact would now require screening for all licensees.

### **Addressing Interns' Licensing and Compact Issues**

Kathie expressed concern about two interns based in Georgia who were getting licensed in Florida due to the compact's home state rule. Dr. Dr. Aaron clarified that the compact, expected to start in early 2025, would allow interns to practice in other states based on their home state license. However, he noted that endorsement to practice in Georgia would require a two-year license in that state. The team decided to revisit the issue to ensure the interns' time is not wasted.

### **Fpa Subcommittee and Legislative Updates**

Dr. Dr. Aaron discussed the Fpa subcommittee's work on targeted school violence, emphasizing the importance of mental health professionals' role in this context. The committee is awaiting further information from their contact at Fpa, who is exploring potential collaboration with sheriffs. Dr. Dr. Aaron also mentioned a subcommittee working on educating members on legislative interaction, with a webinar proposal in the works. Corinne reported that her team was monitoring policy developments, particularly in relation to the implementation of last year's bills and forthcoming rulemaking for the Live Healthy Act and other bills. She also indicated that they were collaborating with the Marriage and Family Therapist Association to ensure they had supportive bill sponsors for the next legislative session. Corinne pointed out that issues surrounding public school funding and mental health integration with school districts were likely to feature prominently in the next session.

### **Minors' Procedures and Psychologists' Rule**

Corinne clarified that, following a recent court ruling, minors can receive these procedures, but any therapies or procedures already underway must continue. Corinne also predicted that the issue would likely end up in the Florida Supreme Court. Dr. Dr. Aaron then discussed a proposed new rule in the Florida administrative code that would protect psychologists' test data and protocols, aligning their rules with those of other mental health professionals. The survey results for this proposed rule were expected to be positive.

### **Dr. Dr. Aaron's Absence and 491 Board Meeting**

Dr. Dr. Aaron informed the team that he would be unavailable for the August 491 board meeting due to his trip to a Counseling Institute in Ireland and the UK. The team debated whether to have someone else read his letter during the public comment section or to postpone it until November. Demetrius and Michael supported Dr. Dr. Aaron's presentation, while also considering the timing's importance. It was decided that Dr. Dr. Aaron would consult with Corinne and prepare a letter for the 491 Board meeting. The team also discussed the potential benefits and challenges of attending the 491 Board meetings.

### **Supervision Hours Logging Form Mandate**

Dr. Dr. Aaron discussed the new rule implemented by the 4 9 1 board requiring qualified supervisors to use a specific department form to log their supervision hours regularly. He clarified that this form is mandatory and not optional, contrary to some rumors. Dr. Dr. Aaron had contacted Ashley Irving from the board for clarification and was awaiting her

response. He also mentioned that he would continue using his own log in the meantime. Additionally, Dr. Dr. Aaron shared a link to the form in the chat box for those who needed it.

### **New Supervision and Psychotherapy Process**

Dr. Dr. Aaron explained the new process for documenting supervision and face-to-face psychotherapy hours, which involves an electronic form that both the intern and supervisor must maintain and update. The responsibility for this form was initially clarified as being on the intern, but Dr. Dr. Aaron emphasized that it's a mutual responsibility. Taurean asked about the verification of client hours, and Dr. Dr. Aaron clarified that the verification of clinical experience form is submitted to the board once the supervision is complete, and the log is kept for potential unusual circumstances. Dr. Dr. Aaron also outlined his plan to handle the new process, including uploading the form as a PDF, creating an electronic signature, and receiving an email for each intern submission.

### **Summer Tasks and Subcommittee Formation**

Dr. Dr. Aaron proposed two main tasks for the team over the summer. The first task was to work with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to modify their policy manual to accept diagnoses from 491 board-licensed professionals, in addition to physicians, psychologists, and psychiatrists. Dr. Dr. Aaron, who has previous experience with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, volunteered to draft a proposal for this change. The second task was to address the issue of the Department of Education (DOE) accepting records for student accommodations, which was deemed a complex issue requiring further research. Dr. Dr. Aaron suggested the formation of a subcommittee for this task, with Taurean and Dr. Carlos being potential members due to their familiarity with schools and accommodation letters. Derek also expressed interest in being part of this subcommittee and mentioned a related issue he had previously emailed Dr. Dr. Aaron about.

### **Client Record-Keeping Compliance and Education**

Dr. Dr. Aaron and Derek discussed the importance of maintaining proper records for clients, as required by the State of Florida. Derek shared his experience as a former investigator with the Florida Department of Financial Services, highlighting that many people are unaware of the specific records needed and the consequences for non-compliance. Dr. Dr. Aaron agreed, noting that his own interns had issues with their agency's record-keeping. The two decided to collaborate on a webinar to educate members about these issues, with Kathie offering her assistance. They agreed to share reference materials and to coordinate via email.

### **New Attestation Requirement and Licensing Issues**

Dr. Dr. Aaron informed the team about a new attestation requirement for private practices, which involves registering with the Federal Government, and the need to file a Beneficial Ownership Information Report to the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) by January 1st. Dr. Dr. Aaron shared his experience with the process and committed to finding and sharing the name of the attestation for the team's reference. The team also encountered issues accessing the FinCEN website for further information. Additionally, Dr. Dr. Aaron clarified to Kathie that interns would not be eligible to practice in other states as they would not be licensed at the independent level. The team also discussed the vocational rehabilitation issue, but no specific action items or decisions were made regarding this matter.

regarding this matter.

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