



STATE OF ARIZONA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EXAMINERS
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DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
Governor

TOBI ZAVALA
Executive Director

September 24, 2021

Dear AZBBHE Licensee,

Throughout these challenging times, the Board has witnessed the resiliency of the behavioral health community, as you have shown your ability to adjust with difficult circumstances. Thank you for all that you do. The Board would like to take this time to highlight several significant changes and reminders. Please continue to visit the website for the most current information.

- [Senate Bill 1089](#): *Effective September 29, 2021*
Indirect Hours for Supervised Work Experience: On March 18, 2021, Governor Ducey signed [Senate Bill 1089](#) which amended A.R.S. §§ 32-3293 (social work), 32-3301 (counseling), 32-3311 (marriage and family therapy), and 32-3321 (substance abuse counseling). As a result, *indirect* client hours no longer need to be tracked; however, 1600 *direct* client hours are still required in addition to at least 100 hours of clinical supervision in no less than 24 months. The supervisor must also attest that the supervisee was observed during supervised hours to have demonstrated satisfactory competency in clinical documentation, consultation, collaboration and coordination of care related to clients to whom the supervisee provided direct care. All verification forms will be updated and posted to the website.
- [House Bill 2454](#): *Effective May 5, 2021*
On May 5, 2021, Governor Ducey signed [House Bill 2454](#), which amended the following statutes:
 - **Verbal Informed Consent:** [A.R.S. § 36-3602 \(A\)](#) states that verbal informed consent may now be obtained by the licensee when providing telehealth services. Provider must document consent in the client's clinical record.
 - **Telehealth Direct Client Contact:** [A.R.S. § 32-3251 \(3\)](#) allows associate level licensees to acquire hours telephonically when clinically appropriate and alternative means for meeting in-person via video is not feasible.
- Board Meeting: *August 13, 2021*
Board members discussed the following items ([Meeting Minutes](#)):
 - **Substance Abuse Counseling Scope**
Board members discussed the importance of substance abuse counselors to practice within their scope, which is defined in [A.R.S. § 32-3251 \(12\)](#): "Practice of substance abuse counseling" means the professional application of general counseling theories, principles and techniques as specifically adapted, based on research and clinical experience, to the specialized needs and characteristics of persons who are experiencing substance abuse, chemical dependency and related problems and to the families of those persons. The practice of substance abuse counseling includes the following as they relate to substance abuse and chemical dependency issues:
 - (a) Assessment, appraisal and diagnosis.
 - (b) The use of psychotherapy for the purpose of evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families and groups.
 - **Face to Face Clinical Supervision Interpretation**
Board members discussed [R 4-6-212 \(D\) \(1\)](#) and the ability to reinterpret "face to face" hours of clinical supervision to lessen the burden on supervisors and supervisees in cases where it is difficult to meet in person. *The members unanimously voted to reinterpret "face-to-face" to include virtual teleconference.*

For questions regarding this information, please review the Board's website, email the Board at information@azbbhe.us, or call (602) 542-1882. As a reminder, the most current information and updates are located on the Board's website.

The Board sincerely thanks you for your services to those in need and hopes that you and your family have remained safe and healthy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tobi Zavala". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tobi Zavala
Executive Director