

Counseling Compact Executive Committee Meeting

October 7, 2026, 1:00 p.m. ET

Committee Members Present

Kim Speakman, Chair
Dr. Denauvo Robinson, Vice Chair
Brian Carnahan
Tony Onorato
Laura Shaughnessy
Carol Staben Burroughs
Tobi Zavala joined at 1:06 p.m.

Committee Members Absent**Ex-Officio Committee Members Present**

Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, NBCC
Matt Grayson, AASCB
Dr. Lynn Linde, ACA

Ex-Officio Committee Members Absent

Joe Sapp, AMHCA

Legal Counsel Present

Nahale Kalfas

CSG and InspiringApps Staff Present**CAMS Staff Present**

Greg Searls
Michelle Lynch

Members of the Public Were Present**Welcome & Call to Order**

- Chair Speakman called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. ET.

Roll Call

- Director Searls conducted the roll call. Absences were as listed above. A quorum was established with 6 of 7 voting members present. Secretary Zavala joined the meeting after roll call.

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

- Chair Speakman reviewed the agenda and asked if there was any discussion. Hearing none, she called for a motion to accept the agenda as presented.
- **Motion:** T. Onorato made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Dr. Robinson (Vice Chair) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Review and Adoption of Minutes

- Chair Speakman invited members to share any edits to the September meeting minutes. Hearing none, she called for a motion to approve.
- **Motion:** Treasurer Carnahan made a motion to approve the September minutes. T. Onorato seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ex-Officio Updates

- **Dr. Kylie Dotson-Blake, NBCC:** Reported that NBCC is developing jurisprudence assessments for all states, DC, and Puerto Rico, with options for state-specific content. NBCC is also developing a clinical supervision assessment and an ethics screener, both expected by the end of the year. The proposal window for the Law and Ethics in Counseling Conference is open, and eligible board members are encouraged to submit proposals.
- **Matt Grayson, AASCB:** Reported that its research committee is active and preparing to present at the February conference in Las Vegas. Conference registration is open, with the final program expected after Thanksgiving. The recent From Gavel to Greatness Fall Workshop had more than 40 attendees and received positive feedback. The AASCB Board is reviewing proposed bylaw revisions aligned with its strategic plan, with a membership vote anticipated in February.
- **Joe Sapp, AMHCA:** Not present.
- **Dr. Lynn Linde, ACA:** Reported that its March conference in Portland, Oregon, will celebrate ACA's 75th anniversary. Conference planning is underway, with the agenda and keynote speakers being finalized. The ACA Board deferred action on the revised Code of Ethics until its November meeting to allow additional review. If approved, the Code could take effect in December, with professional development opportunities to follow.

Trademark and Licensing Updates

- Legal Counsel Kalfas reported that the Collaborative Software Agreement (formerly the Member Services Agreement) does not affect the Commission's ownership of the now-registered CompactConnect trademark. She is confirming whether the registered trademark symbol (®) should be added.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas described the cost-sharing structure of the agreement. New commissions joining CompactConnect will contribute to initial development and shared maintenance costs. Maintenance costs will be divided equally, while development costs will depend on each compact's needs. New features developed

for other commissions will be available to all participating commissions at no additional cost.

- CSG provided each of the three commissions \$60,000 for state onboarding support through CompactConnect, to be spent by June.

Committee Needs & Outreach

- Chair Speakman noted the ongoing need for committee members.
- Director Searls reported that a couple of committee members are rolling off their boards or not being reappointed.
- Director Searls shared that he met with one potential alternate about joining a committee but has not yet received the request and bio needed for appointment.

Finance Committee Update

- Treasurer Carnahan reported that the Finance Committee did not meet last month due to lack of a quorum and will meet next week. In the meantime, bills are being paid, and fees are being transferred. A more detailed update will be provided after the next meeting.

Review of Rules Following the Public Comment Period

- Executive Director Searls reported that the Rules Committee reviewed public comments from two individuals. The only revisions made were to Chapters 2 and 14, replacing “CompactConnect” with “data system” to allow for future system changes. Other comments addressed a statutory definition, state-specific implementation questions, and existing rules, with no additional revisions recommended at this time.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas clarified that the revisions were nonsubstantive and do not require an additional public comment period.
- **Motion:** C. Staben Burroughs made a motion to accept the non-substantive changes to Chapter 2 and Chapter 14 for forwarding to the Full Commission. Secretary Zavala seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Software Demos

- Executive Director Searls reported that staff is evaluating board management software to centralize meeting materials and facilitate electronic voting. Four systems have been reviewed, with plans to trial two options. Funding is budgeted, and any additional costs will be referred to the Finance Committee.
- Chair Speakman noted the software may not be implemented before the November 10 Full Commission meeting.
- Legal Counsel Kalfas suggested using approval by unanimous consent, as permitted under Robert's Rules, to streamline routine votes in the meantime.

Counseling Compact Logo

- Executive Director Searls presented a practitioner's request to use the Counseling Compact logo on their website and communications. The Committee discussed concerns that logo use could imply Commission endorsement and noted that practitioners can verify their privileges through the public lookup and CompactConnect QR code.
- The Committee discussed adding links to state complaint pages within the public lookup as a future CompactConnect enhancement.
- **Motion:** T. Onorato made a motion to deny the request to use the Counseling Compact logo. L. Shaughnessy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- Executive Director Searls will notify the requestor of the decision.

Executive Director KPI Review

- Legal Counsel Kalfas advised that Section 9.E, subsections (b) and (d), provide the authority for the Committee to enter closed session for discussion of the Executive Director's performance review.
- **Motion:** Treasurer Carnahan made the motion to enter closed session. Dr. Robinson (Vice Chair) seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- The Committee entered closed session at 1:38 p.m. ET and returned to open session at 2:17 p.m. ET.
- **Motion:** C. Staben Burroughs made a motion to approve the decision made in closed session. Dr. Robinson (Vice Chair) seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 affirmative votes and 1 nay vote.

Executive Director Report/Go Live Updates

Director Searls reported that:

- The Compact has been live for over a year.
- Oklahoma went live on October 1 and noted that they do not charge a state fee.
- As of the morning of the meeting, 3,314 privileges have been issued; 152 have been renewed and 202 have expired. 46.1% of privilege holders hold a privilege in only one state, down about 3% since the August report.
- Another state is expected to go live within the next week or two, pending successful data testing.
- The Communications Committee is up and running.
- In September, staff responded to 513 emails in the info@ inbox, and Director Searls' inboxes received over 1,000 emails, for a total of more than 1,500.
- In the last two weeks, Director Searls handled 60 incoming and 37 outgoing phone calls.
- Staff are working through the JCC on multi-factor authentication (MFA) issues affecting all compacts, including possibly extending the three-minute window

during which the QR code is valid. Licensees are encouraged to download the authenticator app before starting registration.

- InspiringApps is reviewing how a state board user account (Ohio) was removed from the system.
- Director Searls met with Pennsylvania, DC, and New Jersey, and followed up with Colorado, which is still working on administrative items. Several states appear to be getting closer each week.

Questions and Comments

- None. Chair Speakman noted that no members of the public were present.

Adjourn

- Hearing no further questions and having completed all the agenda items, Chair Speakman declared the meeting adjourned.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. ET.