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Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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**Board of Social Workers  
Public Session Meeting Minutes**  
April 23, 2024

**TIME:** 9:33 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Marie Pierre-Victor  
Carrie Kelley  
Yvonne Ruiz  
Marcia Roddy  
Charlene Zuffante

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Judith Bromley, Board Counsel  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor  
Doris Lugo, Investigator  
Pamely Mota, Investigative Intern

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

**Board Business**

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Marie Pierre-Victor, Carrie Kelley, Yvonne Ruiz, Marcia Roddy, and Charlene Zuffante all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Roddy, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of March 26, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Roddy, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 26, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **Petition for Reinstatement – Interview**

- **Billie Starks, Applicant for LICSW Re-licensure**
  - **Interview of Billie Starks:** Ms. Starks appeared with her attorney Andra Hutchins to discuss her request to be re-licensed after she voluntarily surrendered her license in 2018. Ms. Starks explained that she had a “series of personal crises” during the time of the complaint that led to her surrender. Since her surrender, she has become a mother and has focused on her own health in various ways. If she were licensed again, Ms. Starks would do more therapeutic work. She is humbler now, understands boundaries, and is more willing to seek consultation and self-care.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Starks to provide additional information for review.

## **Application Review Interview – Reference**

- **Marissa Melnikov, Applicant for LICSW**
  - **Interview of Marissa Melnikov:** Ms. Melnikov appeared to discuss a reference she received from Carissa Dawson. Ms. Melnikov explained that the reference is retaliation for Ms. Melnikov’s reporting of Ms. Dawson to her manager. Ms. Melnikov has worked with many different types of people, including supervisors, and tries to learn as much as she can. She works with transgender youth but is a generalist.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Melnikov to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **Application Review – Experience**

- **Tara Flotta, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Flotta’s application, including her experience hours earned before she was licensed as an LCSW. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Flotta that all experience hours for the LICSW license must be earned after an applicant is licensed as an LCSW.

## **Application Reviews – Reference**

- **Alfonso Henderson, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Henderson’s application, including information regarding references. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Mr. Henderson to continue with the licensing process if he agrees to a conditional licensure agreement containing the following terms:

- his scope of practice is limited to that of an LCSW for the duration of the agreement;
- one year of weekly supervision by a Board-approved LICSW supervisor focusing on transference and countertransference, boundaries, ethics, active listening, time management, and client engagement;
- quarterly reports from the supervisor to the Board regarding Mr. Henderson's performance; and
- Mr. Henderson must petition the Board to terminate the agreement at the end of supervision.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Tina Baygboe, Applicant for LSW:** Mr. Bialas reported on his efforts to obtain the additional information the Board requested from Ms. Baygboe's former supervisor. The Board directed Mr. Bialas to again contact the Human Resources Director at Ms. Baygboe's former employer to obtain the information.
- **Brenda Krenitsky, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Krenitsky's application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Krenitsky to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jennifer Ullrich, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Ullrich's application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Ullrich to a meeting for an interview.
- **Judith Boutiette, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board again reviewed Ms. Boutiette's application, including a new reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Boutiette to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

#### **Application Review – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction**

- **Mona Swinny, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Swinny's application, including her disclosure of discipline in Louisiana for unlicensed practice. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Roddy, to allow Ms. Swinny to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Ruiz voting no, and Ms. Pierre-Victor abstaining.

#### **Petition for Reinstatement**

- **Meredith Bolden (Linehan), Applicant for Reinstatement as LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Bolden's petition to terminate her suspension. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Bolden to a meeting for an interview.

## Discussion

- **Revisions to 258 CMR 8.03**
  - **Definition of Clinical Social Work Services:** The Board reviewed a proposed change to 258 CMR 8.03 to modify the definition of “Clinical Social Work Services.” After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the change. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
  
- **Revisions to 258 CMR 9.03(4) and 258 CMR 12.02(1) and (2)**
  - **Acceptable Clinical Supervisors for LCSWs:** The Board reviewed proposed changes to 258 CMR 9.03(4) and 258 CMR 12.02(1) and (2) to expand the definition of acceptable clinical supervisors for LCSWs. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the change with an additional change. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
  
- **Supervision for Continuing Education Credit:** The Board considered whether to allow continuing education credit for clinical supervision and revisited a letter from the National Association of Social Workers – Massachusetts Chapter (NASW-MA) on this topic. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask NASW-MA for more information on how that allowance is administered in Rhode Island.
  
- **Conditional Licensure:** The Board discussed the creation of a conditional license pending an applicant’s passage of the examination for the LCSW license. The Board took no action.
  
- **Retention of Supervision Records:** The Board will discuss this topic at the next meeting.
  
- **Waivers of Wait Period for Examination Retakes:** Mr. Bialas explained that, each year, under certain circumstances, applicants who do not pass an examination can receive more than two waivers of the 90-day wait period before retaking that examination.

## Correspondence

- **3.28.24 Letter from S. Kleinman of National Association of Social Workers – Massachusetts Chapter Committee on Ethics re: Ethics Continuing Education Requirement:** Ms. Ruiz recused herself from consideration of the letter. The Board will review the letter next month when a quorum is available to consider the letter.

**Investigative Conference** (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

At 12:10 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to exit public session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, conduct a case interview, and review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:10 p.m.

**Settlement**

2022-000494-IT-ENF (NM): Gave direction to prosecutor

**Cases**

SW-2023-0035 (CK): Ms. Kelley recused herself from the discussion of, and vote on, the case. Consider the case next month when a quorum is available.

SW-2023-0038 (DA): Dismiss

**Case Interviews**

2022-001131-IT-ENF (OD): Ms. Pierre-Victor recused herself from the discussion of, and vote on, the case. Consider the case next month when a quorum is available.

SW-2023-0014 (MN): Interviewed respondent; dismiss.

SW-2023-0026 (CT): Interviewed respondent; refer to Board counsel

**Cases**

SW-2023-0066 (TL): Invite respondent to a board meeting for an interview

INV8486 (RC): Refer to the office of investigations

INV8490 (CW): Refer to the office of investigations

FSW-2023-0002 (MC): Dismiss

2022-001035-IT-ENF (JR): Dismiss

## **Adjournment**

At 1:37 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 28, 2024.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

## **List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:**

- Agenda for Meeting of April 23, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of March 26, 2024
- Petition for Reinstatement of Billie Starks
- LICSW Application of Marissa Melnikov
- LICSW Application of Tara Flotta
- LICSW Application of Alfonso Henderson
- LSW Application of Tina Baygboe
- LCSW Application of Brenda Krenitsky
- LICSW Application of Jennifer Ullrich
- LCSW Application of Judith Boutiette
- LSW Application of Mona Swinny
- Petition for Reinstatement of Meredith Bolden (Linehan)
- Proposed Revisions to 258 CMR 8.03
- Proposed Revisions to 258 CMR 9.03(4) and 258 CMR 12.02(1) and (2)
- 9.28.24 Letter from R. Gewirtz and B. Burka of National Association of Social Workers – Massachusetts Chapter re: Supervision for Continuing Education Credit