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Department of Public Health  
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**Board of Social Workers  
Public Session Meeting Minutes**  
April 25, 2023

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Quanesha Fuller (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)  
Scune Carrington  
Yvonne Ruiz (left meeting at 10:15 a.m., returned at 11:33 a.m.)  
Tamara Lundi (arrived at 10:04 a.m., left meeting at 12:22 p.m., returned to meeting at 12:36 p.m.)  
Charlene Zuffante (left meeting at 1:28 p.m.)  
Marie Pierre-Victor  
Carrie Kelley

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel  
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

**Board Business**

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Scune Carrington, Yvonne Ruiz, Charlene Zuffante, Marie Pierre-Victor, and Carrie Kelley all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Pierre-Victor abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of March 28, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the Executive Session

Minutes of March 28, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Pierre-Victor abstaining.

Ms. Fuller arrived at 9:40 a.m.

- **Complaint Subcommittee:** The Board discussed whether to create a subcommittee of members to review new complaints. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to create a subcommittee of Ms. Ruiz, Ms. Pierre-Victor, and Ms. Carrington to review new complaints and report recommended actions on those complaints to the full Board for approval. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Lundi arrived at 10:04 a.m.

Ms. Ruiz left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

### **Application Review Interview – Reference**

- **Sherylin Fontaine, Applicant for LICSW**
  - **Interview of Sherylin Fontaine:** Ms. Fontaine appeared to discuss her negative reference from experience she obtained in 2017-2018. She explained that she stopped working for the program but continued to do evaluations for the company. Ms. Fontaine admitted that she failed to review the code of ethics before starting a hair-braiding group with clients, hiring a person in a psychoeducation group to do hair for a wedding, and hiring the clinic receptionist to do makeup. Ms. Fontaine does not know of any billing problems at the program. She has good supervision now and asks more questions. Although the company told her that she was being terminated at one point, she continued to do work for the company, then left voluntarily. She only had problems with one supervisor.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to allow Ms. Fontaine to continue with the licensing process if she provides another reference for sufficient supervised hours to make up for the hours on the negative reference. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

- **Terrian Levy, Applicant for LICSW**
  - **Interview of Terrian Levy:** Ms. Levy appeared to discuss her prior discipline in Connecticut for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of a Licensed Professional Counselor at her practice. She explained that the person's licensing fee check was lost in the mail, and that the person is now licensed. Ms. Levy paid

money back that the person had billed for through Ms. Levy's practice. Ms. Levy now checks the licensing board's website and asks for the license card of anyone she is considering hiring. She wants a license in Massachusetts so she can supervise in Massachusetts.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Fuller, to allow Ms. Levy to continue with the licensing process if she provides a new license verification from Connecticut that does not show a pending investigation on her license. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Application Review Interview – No Reference**

- **Evelyn Romero, Applicant for LICSW**
  - **Interview of Evelyn Romero:** Ms. Romero appeared to discuss why one of her former supervisors Jessica Smith refused to provide a reference for her application. Ms. Romero explained that she was only in that position for a short time and resigned – she provided a shorter notice than the organization expected. Ms. Romero complained to Human Resources about Ms. Smith and the “mean girl” environment. Ms. Smith did not have any concerns with Ms. Romero's performance that were addressed during supervision. Ms. Romero always answered crisis calls, and she managed case workers well. She has worked at MCI-Shirley for the past year and receives weekly supervision.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Romero to proceed with the licensing process if she provides a new reference with sufficient hours to replace the supervision hours Ms. Smith provided and the experience hours Ms. Smith supervised. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Carrington abstaining.

### **Discussion**

- **Discussion with Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) about Released Data on Social Work Examination Passage Rates by Demographic:** Stacey Chandler-Hardy, the Chief Executive Officer of ASWB, and Roxroy Reid, President of ASWB, presented on the release of examination passage data by ASWB, specifically disparities in the passage rates of candidates by certain demographics. They discussed the develop of the examination. Ms. Chandler-Hardy and Mr. Reid emphasized that the profession must work to educate more students of color earlier because, when these students take the examination, it is “too late.”

Ms. Ruiz returned to the meeting at 11:33 a.m.

Ms. Chandler-Hardy and Mr. Reid discussed ASWB initiatives to develop the workforce, learn more about current trends in the profession, release more examination data, and

help examination-takers succeed. They emphasized that, except for the LSW examination, Massachusetts exceeds the overall national examination passage rates.

Board members asked about ASWB accountability through Delegate Assembly elections, what ASWB is doing about the examination immediately, and whether the National Association of Black Social Workers can be involved in future initiatives. Ms. Chandler-Hardy and Mr. Reid explained the election process, that ASWB is making some immediate changes to the examination while seeking feedback from the profession, and that ASWB has had discussions with the National Association of Black Social Workers through the President of the association who also is on the Louisiana state board.

- **Licensee Discipline at the Department of Public Health:** Ms. York discussed the Board's options for disciplining licensees at DPH. The Board will discuss whether to continue to fine for continuing education violations at the next meeting.

### **Application Review – Reference**

- **Elena Nolan, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Nolan's application, including a negative reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to allow Ms. Nolan to continue with the licensing process provided ASWB can confirm with the referrer that the incident the referrer describes is the same incident described by another referrer that the Board already discussed at previous meetings. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

- **Michael Galvin, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Galvin's application, including his prior discipline in Louisiana for unlicensed practice. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Galvin to a meeting for an interview.

### **Monitoring**

- **Brenda Morrill, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor and Letter of Clarification from Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Morrill's proposed supervisor Billie J. Anderson-Pachulski and a letter from Ms. Anderson-Pachulski clarifying her prior work relationship with the organization where Ms. Morrill works. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to approve Ms. Anderson-Pachulski as Ms. Morrill's supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Carrington, Ms. Ruiz, and Ms. Kelley abstaining.

**Executive Session** (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information)

At 12:22 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information in a continuing education extension request, a request for reinstatement, and a monitoring report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Lundi left the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

The Board entered executive session at 12:22 p.m. The Chair announced that the Board would not resume public session after closed session.

Ms. Lundi returned to the meeting at 12:36 p.m.

Ms. Zuffante left the meeting at 1:28 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

At 1:45 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board exited executive session and the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 23, 2023.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of April 25, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 28, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of March 28, 2023
- LICSW Application of Sherylin Fontaine
- LICSW Application of Terrian Levy
- LICSW Application of Evelyn Romero
- ASWB Documentation re: Release of Examination Passage Data, ASWB Presentation to the District of Columbia re: Same, and ASWB Presentation to Massachusetts re: Same
- Board of Social Workers Board Actions regarding Staff Assignments and Complaints

- Board of Social Workers Tool to Assist with Motions (April 2023)
- LICSW Application of Elena Nolan
- LICSW Application of Michael Galvin
- Brenda Morrill, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Supervisor and 4.4.23 Letter from B. Anderson-Pachulski Clarifying Prior Work Relationship with Organization Where B. Morrill Works