



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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**Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes
May 28, 2024**

TIME: 9:36 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Marie Pierre-Victor
Carrie Kelley
Yvonne Ruiz
Charlene Zuffante
Scune Carrington
Tamara Lundi (arrived at 11:46 a.m., left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.)

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Judith Bromley, 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 9:36 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Marie Pierre-Victor, Carrie Kelley, Yvonne Ruiz, Charlene Zuffante, and Scune Carrington all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Carrington abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Executive Session

Minutes of April 25, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Carrington abstaining.

Petition for Reinstatement – Interview

- **Meredith Bolden (Linehan), Applicant for Reinstatement as LICSW**
 - **Interview of Meredith Bolden:** Ms. Bolden appeared to discuss her request to be re-licensed after the Board placed her license on probation with conditions after a final decision and order in 2018, Ms. Bolden did not comply with those conditions, and the Board then suspended her license for three years by consent agreement in 2021. Mr. Bialas stated that Ms. Bolden’s original violation was for stealing student prescriptions from the nurse’s office of a school where she worked.

Ms. Bolden explained that she has addressed the issues that led to her violation, is not struggling like she was then, and has been employed at the same place working “in recovery” for the last four years. Her employer knows about her suspension. She described how she is working to prevent further struggles and stated she is no longer in a difficult relationship. Although she is not required to be licensed in her current position, if the Board were to allow Ms. Bolden to reinstate her LICSW license, she could supervise interns, be involved in the leadership of her employer, and prepare for a regulation change that may require her to be licensed. She also may want to start her own practice someday.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Bolden to continue with the licensing process if she agrees to a conditional licensure agreement containing the following terms:

- her scope of practice is limited to that of an LCSW, and she may not supervise anyone for the duration of the agreement;
- two years of weekly supervision by a Board-approved LICSW supervisor;
- quarterly reports from the supervisor to the Board regarding Ms. Bolden’s performance; and
- Ms. Bolden must petition the Board to terminate the agreement at the end of supervision.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review Interview – Reference

- **Jennifer Ullrich, Applicant for LICSW**
 - **Interview of Jennifer Ullrich:** Ms. Ullrich appeared to discuss a reference she received from Prisca Hefti. Ms. Ullrich explained that she has continued to receive supervision from Ms. Hefti, whom Ms. Ullrich explains was not always

clear in supervision, and also has a private, outside supervisor. She has been focusing on countertransference and tries not to “emote” with clients – Ms. Ullrich uses meditation to “regain her center.”

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Ullrich for an updated reference from Ms. Hefti and a reference from her current outside supervisor.

Application Review – Experience

- **Tara Flotta, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Flotta’s application, including her request that the Board apply past guidance regarding the eligibility of certain experience hours of unlicensed trainees. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Flotta to obtain documentation of all experience hours she obtained while licensed as an LCSW for the Board’s review.

Application Review – Reference

- **Tina Baygboe, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Baygboe’s application, including a reference and additional documentation provided by Ms. Baygboe and the reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Baygboe to a meeting for an interview.

Discussion

- **Supervision for Continuing Education Credit:** The Board discussed a proposal to allow LICSWs continuing education credit for time spent supervising students and LCSWs. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas and Ms. Bromley to draft proposed regulations for the Board’s review that would allow LICSWs up to eight credits, four per year, for supervising students for a full academic year or supervising an LCSW for 50 hours per year.
- **Retention of Supervision Records:** The Board discussed creating a policy that would require the retention of supervision records. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas and Ms. Bromley to draft a proposed policy for the Board’s review that would require supervisors to maintain “adequate records” of supervision for seven years from the date of the last supervision session.
- **Policy on Delegation of Authority re: Drafting Orders to Show Cause and Consent Agreements to Board Counsel and the Prosecution Unit:** The Board reviewed the revised draft policy that allows a prosecutor (1) to negotiate with respondents in adjudicatory matters within a range of discipline provided by the Board; (2), in consultation with the executive director and board counsel, to add violations to orders for show cause that are not included in the Board’s referral to the Office of Prosecutions; and (3), in consultation with the executive director and board counsel, to delete continuing

education or failure to respond violations in orders to show cause that are included in the Board's referral to the Office of Prosecutions.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the policy as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 and Ms. Carrington recused themselves from consideration of the letter. The Board will review the letter next month when a quorum is available to consider the letter.

Ms. Lundi arrived at 11:46 a.m.

Monitoring

- **Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chapman's submission of Gina Cipolla Connor as supervisor for her conditional licensure agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to approve Ms. Cipolla Connor as Ms. Chapman's supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session (Closed under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B)

At 11:51 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to (1) exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session 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 discuss and evaluate monitoring reports, a petition to terminate probation, a continuing education extension request, and an application for licensure that involve medical records and information of patients, then (2) enter into quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, § 18 to review final decisions and orders and a motion to remove default, then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases, and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (4) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:51 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Quasi-Judicial Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, § 18)

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 12:09 p.m.

During the quasi-judicial session, the Board took the following actions:

Final Decision and Order

2020-000464-IT-ENF & 2020-000264-IT-ENF (DE):

Determined sanction for final decision and order

Summary Suspension: Final Decision and Order and Motion to Remove Default

SW-2023-0071 (DC):

Remand to administrative magistrate for hearing on motion to remove default; maintain summary suspension pending outcome of hearing

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

At 12:22 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to exit public session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:22 p.m.

Cases

SW-2023-0026 (CT):

Refer to office of investigations

SW-2023-0068 (AB):

Dismiss with advisory letter

SW-2023-0021 (HS):

Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

SW-2023-0025 (LW):

Dismiss; open complaint for continuing education violation

SW-2023-0051 (VD):

Dismiss

INV8211 (KP):

Dismiss

INV8274 (JN):

Refer to board counsel

INV8486 (RC):

Dismiss

INV8490 (CW):

Dismiss

INV8531 (CM):

Dismiss

SW-2023-0084 (ED):

Refer to office of prosecutions

INV9034 (NF):

Dismiss

INV9536 (CM):

Docket formal complaint; refer to the office of investigations

INV9591 (MS):

Dismiss

Ms. Lundi left the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

SW-2024-0017 (SS):

SW-2023-0035 (CK):

Dismiss

Ms. Kelley recused herself from the discussion of, and vote on, the case. Consider the case next month when a quorum is available.

INV7201 (ZS):

Ms. Ruiz recused herself from the discussion of, and vote on, the case. Consider the case next month when a quorum is available.

Adjournment

At 2:06 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.

Approval

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on June 23, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of May 28, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of April 25, 2024
- Petition for Reinstatement of Meredith Bolden (Linehan)
- LICSW Application of Jennifer Ullrich
- LICSW Application of Tara Flotta
- LSW Application of Tina Baygboe
- 9.28.24 Letter from R. Gewirtz and B. Burka of National Association of Social Workers – Massachusetts Chapter re: Supervision for Continuing Education Credit
- Draft Policy on Delegation of Authority re: Drafting Orders to Show Cause and Consent Agreements to Board Counsel and the Prosecution Unit
- Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Supervisor