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**Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes**
July 23, 2024

TIME: 9:34 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Marie Pierre-Victor (left meeting at 12:46 p.m., returned to the meeting at 1:15 p.m.)
Carrie Kelley (left the meeting at 1:59 p.m.)
Scune Carrington (arrived at 12:15 p.m.)
Marcia Roddy (left the meeting at 1:55 p.m., returned to the meeting at 2:01 p.m.)
Yvonne Ruiz
Charlene Zuffante

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Judith Bromley, Board Counsel

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Board Business

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

Application Review Interview – Reference

- **Tina Baygboe, Applicant for LSW**

- **Interview of Tina Baygboe:** Ms. Baygboe appeared to discuss a reference. Ms. Baygboe explained that the reference is in retaliation for her complaints to her employer. She advocated for “black and brown” clients, heard no complaints from clients about her performance, and was subjected to racism. She left that position about two years ago and is working as an unlicensed therapist. Her current supervisor told her that she is doing well and is “doing things others wouldn’t.”

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Baygboe 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 documentation of experience for licensure, including an affidavit. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Flotta to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Renee Jacques, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Jacques documentation of experience for licensure. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Bromley to determine Ms. Jacques’ experience pathway for licensure and to request an affidavit from Ms. Jacques documenting the experience hours she is unable to obtain from her supervisor.

Application Reviews – Reference

- **Nazila Hafezi, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Hafezi’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Hafezi to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Susan Richardson, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Richardson’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Richardson to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Ruiz voting no.

Application Review – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Maria West, Applicant for LCSW:** Ms. Roddy recused herself from the consideration of the application. The Board will review the application when a quorum is available.

Discussion

- **Revisions to 258 CMR 31.00 – Supervision for Continuing Education Credit:** The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Board’s regulations to allow continuing education credit for certain supervision activities by LICSWs. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the revisions as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Revisions to 258 CMR 20.00 – Standards for Supervision:** The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Board’s regulations to create standards for supervision. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the revisions with changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Revisions to 258 CMR 9.00 – Expiration of Licensure Applications:** The Board reviewed proposed revisions to the Board’s regulations to create an expiration date for applications. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to approve the revisions as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Telehealth Businesses and Supervision:** The Board discussed its concern that some LCSWs working for or through telehealth businesses are not being supervised properly, and that continuity of care and identification of risk are persistent problems. The Board directed Ms. Bromley to investigate the issues and report to the Board at a future meeting.

Correspondence

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

Monitoring

- **Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 8th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Agreement:** The Board reviewed the report and petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Monette to a meeting for an interview.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Rebekah Gewirtz of NASW-MA stated that NASW-MA encourages the Board to use it as a resource when the Board is considering policy changes.

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 11:18 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, 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 applications for licensure that involve medical records and information of patients, and then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:18 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:46 a.m.

Settlement

Ms. Carrington arrived at 12:15 p.m.

2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC):

Gave direction to prosecutor

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 12:26 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to (1) exit the investigative conference 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 a petition for reinstatement that involves medical records and information of patients, then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to conduct case interviews and review new cases, and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 12:26 p.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:46 a.m.

Case Interviews

2022-001131-IT-ENF (OD):

Ms. Pierre-Victor recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the case and left the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

Interviewed respondent;
dismiss with advisory letter.

Ms. Pierre-Victor returned to the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

SW-2023-0037 (DS):

Interviewed respondent; refer to the office of prosecutions

Cases

SW-2023-0029 (SH):

Ms. Roddy recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the case and left the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Refer to the office of investigations

SW-2023-0027 (SH):

Ms. Roddy recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the case.

Dismiss

Ms. Kelley recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the following case and left the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

Ms. Roddy returned to the meeting at 2:01 p.m.

SW-2023-0035 (CM):

Refer to the office of prosecutions

SW-2023-0030 (LG):

Dismiss

Adjournment

At 2:10 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 27, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 23, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 25, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of June 25, 2024
- LSW Application of Tina Baygboe
- LICSW Application of Tara Flotta
- LSW Application of Renee Jacques
- LCSW Application of Nazila Hafezi
- LICSW Application of Susan Richardson
- Draft Revisions to 258 CMR 31.00 – Supervision for Continuing Education Credit
- Draft Revisions to 258 CMR 20.00 – Standards for Supervision
- Draft Revisions to 258 CMR 9.00 – Expiration of Licensure Applications
- Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 8th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Agreement