The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

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**Board of Social Workers**

**Public Session Meeting Minutes**

September 24, 2024

**TIME:**  9:36 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Quanesha Fuller

Marie Pierre-Victor

Carrie Kelley

Scune Carrington (left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.)

Marcia Roddy

Yvonne Ruiz (left the meeting at 10:11 a.m., returned at 10:22 a.m., left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.)

Charlene Zuffante

Tamara Lundi (arrived at 12:02 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director

Judith Bromley, Board Counsel

Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor

Doris Lugo, Investigator

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. Quanesha Fuller, Marie Pierre-Victor, Carrie Kelley, Scune Carrington, Marcia Roddy, Yvonne Ruiz, and Charlene Zuffante all present by videoconference.
* **Public Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Fuller abstaining.
* **Executive Session Minutes of August 27, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 27, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Fuller abstaining.
* **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2025:** TheBoard considered the election of officers for fiscal year 2025. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to elect Ms. Fuller as Chair, Ms. Kelley as Vice Chair, and Ms. Pierre-Victor as Secretary for fiscal year 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
* **Meeting Schedule for 2025:** Mr. Bialas presented a proposed schedule of meeting dates for calendar year 2025. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the proposed schedule. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

**Application Review – Experience**

* **Renee Jacques, Applicant for LSW:** Ms. Bromley reported that she is drafting an affidavit for Ms. Jacques to verify her experience. The Board deferred review of the application until next month.

**Application Review – Reference**

* **Brittney Sherillo, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Sherillo’s application, including references. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Sherillo, her former supervisor Randi Case, and her current supervisor Kelcey Germain to a meeting for separate interviews.

**Discussion**

* **Telehealth Businesses and Supervision:** Ms. Bromley reported that she is drafting guidance on this topic that the Board will review at a future meeting.
* **ASWB Examination Research Reports:** The Board reviewed and discussed several reports commissioned by ASWB regarding the examinations.

**Correspondence**

Ms. Ruiz recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 10:11 a.m.

* **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:** The Board reviewed a letter from the NASW-MA Committee on Ethics requesting that the Board require licensees to complete continuing education in ethics each licensing cycle. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask the NASW-MA Committee on Ethics for more information.

Ms. Ruiz returned to the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

**Monitoring**

* **Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chapman’s report. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Chapman’s supervisor to revise the report to include, in two or three pages, the themes and topics discussed in Ms. Chapman’s supervision and how those themes and topics relate to why she is required to be supervised.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to place the Board’s monitoring instructions on the next agenda.

**Executive Session (**closed under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and 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 10:31 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to (1) exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1)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 discuss and evaluate the good moral character of applicants as required for licensure and applications that involve medical records and information of patients, and then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to 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 10:31 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 11:35 a.m.

Ms. Ruiz left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

SW-2023-0054 (LF): Dismiss; refer case to the Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Servies Professions

Ms. Lundi arrived at 12:02 p.m.

SW-2023-0055 (AL): Refer to the Office of Investigations

Ms. Carrington left the meeting at 12:07 p.m.

SW-2023-0058 (RD): Dismiss

SW-2023-0086 (GL): Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

SW-2024-0014 (TD): Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

INV9752 (JM): Dismiss

INV12384 (PC): Dismiss

SW-2023-0085 (MG): Dismiss

SW-2024-0001 (RR): Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

**Adjournment**

At 1:05 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

**Approval**

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on November 19, 2024.

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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

* Agenda for Meeting of September 24, 2024
* Public Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2024
* Executive Session Minutes of August 27, 2024
* Proposed Board Meeting Schedule for 2025
* LCSW Application of Brittney Sherillo
* 8.15.24 Email from ASWB to B. Bialas re: Examination Research Reports, including linked reports
* 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
* Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report