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Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 27, 2022

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Fuller, Chair (arrived at 11:47 a.m.)
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Carrie Kelley
Yvonne Ruiz (left meeting at 1:32 p.m.)
Marie Andree Pierre-Victor
Tamara Lundi (arrived at 9:37 a.m.)
Shaynah Barnes Munro (left meeting at 10:36 a.m.)

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Deputy General Counsel
Esther Laine, Associate Deputy Commissioner
Jennifer Cargill, Board Counsel

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Lundi arrived at 9:37 a.m.

- **Executive Session Minutes of July 26, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Complaint Subcommittee:** The Board considered whether to appoint a subcommittee to review pending cases. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to appoint Ms. Kelley, Mr. Powers, and Ms. Pierre-Victor to a subcommittee that will meet on October 20, 2022 to review pending cases and report to the Board. The motion passed unanimously.



- **Second Board Meeting in October:** The Board discussed scheduling a second full meeting in October. After a brief discussion, the Board decided to meet on October 18, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. in addition to October 25, 2022 at 9:30 a.m., the Board’s regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Application Review Interviews – Negative Reference

- **Scott Johnson, Applicant for LICSW:** Mr. Johnson appeared to discuss his application and negative reference. Mr. Johnson explained that the “relational dynamics” with his supervisor were the problem: it was a “toxic relationship” marked by poor communication and a lack of trust. In retrospect, he would have tried to learn more about his supervisor’s supervisory style before accepting the position. Mr. Johnson quit his position after he requested a new supervisor, and that request was denied. Simply put, Mr. Johnson did not feel the department supported him. Even though he left abruptly, he believes his clients were taken care of well after he left.

The Board deferred a decision on Mr. Johnson’s application to the next meeting.

- **Elena Nolan, Applicant for LICSW:** Ms. Nolan appeared to discuss her application and negative reference. She explained that she only worked remotely in Connecticut without notice to her employer once, and worked remotely again for a graduation party that she says was approved through PayCom. Ms. Nolan also explained that she would ask required questions “indirectly” so as not to be “pushy” and harm the wellbeing of the client. She never received formal discipline from her employer.

The Board deferred a decision on Ms. Nolan’s application to the next meeting.

- **Alberto Chang, Applicant for LICSW:** Mr. Chang appeared to discuss his application and negative reference. Mr. Chang explained that he had to take two leaves of absence from his position and did not “transition” his clients well, although he did provide a transition plan to his employer. He is working on adding more non-telehealth and non-telephone clients to his caseload. Mr. Chang now has regular meetings to discuss high-risk clients with his supervisors.

The Board deferred a decision on Mr. Chang’s application to the next meeting.

Ms. Barnes Munro left the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Application Review Interview – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Joanne Werther, Applicant for LICSW:** Ms. Werther appeared to discuss her discipline in Maine because of a romantic relationship with a former client. She explained that her discipline was “light” because the case did not involve exploitation: she still is with the former client, and Ms. Werther maintains that the relationship did not begin until the former client’s relationship with Mr. Werther’s other client had already ended. She consulted with an ethics expert on her own for several months. Ms. Werther stated that she would like to provide trainings and see clients at a nursing home in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and that is why she is seeking a Massachusetts license.

The Board deferred a decision on Ms. Werther's application to the next meeting.

Reinstatement Interview

- **Sandra Garcon, 2019-000571-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension:** Ms. Garcon appeared to discuss her petition to terminate suspension. Ms. Garcon explained that, before she was disciplined by the Board, she did not know that she could not have a business relationship with a former client. She is pursuing her doctorate and is ready to work again because of her self-care practices and strong religious faith.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to accept Ms. Garcon's petition to terminate suspension. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **ASWB Release of Examination Data:** The Board discussed the examination data. Ms. Ruiz commented that social work schools were interested in this information, and she hopes ASWB and NASW work to ensure equity in the profession. Ms. Pierre-Victor stated that she is interested to see what ASWB and social work schools will do with the examinations.
- **Senate Bill No. 3097: "A Bill Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health":** Ms. Gasson reported on statutory changes that modify the composition of the Board and amend the definition of clinical social work, among other things. The changes go into effect on November 8, 2022.

Correspondence

- **8.15.22 Letter from J. Greiner-Ferris and M. Khalsa re: Y-CBT:** Ms. Greiner-Ferris appeared with her attorney, Hannah Konowitz, to discuss Ms. Greiner-Ferris's request that Yoga-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (Y-CBT) be recognized as within the scope of clinical social work. After a brief discussion, the Board did not take a position on the issue.

Monitoring

- **Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chhum's petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Chhum and her supervisor to a meeting for an interview.
- **Stephen Hoy, 20141015SW010-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation:** The Board reviewed Mr. Hoy's petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Hoy and his supervisor to a meeting for an interview.

Executive Session (Closed 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)

At 11:38 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, 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, to interview an applicant regarding her good moral character, 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 personal and medical information for an interview regarding a renewal, a petition to terminate suspension, and an application review. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:38 a.m.

Ms. Fuller arrived at 11:47 a.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 1:04 p.m.

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

Case Interviews

2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC):

Interviewed respondent; Mr. Powers recused himself from the consideration of this case and took no part in the interview.

Ms. Ruiz left the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

2021-001085-IT-ENF (PC):

Interviewed respondent

2022-000376-IT-ENF (JM):

Interviewed respondent

Adjournment

At 2:28 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Fuller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on October 18, 2022.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of September 27, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of July 26, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of July 26, 2022
- LICSW Application of Scott Johnson
- LICSW Application of Elena Nolan
- LICSW Application of Alberto Chang
- LICSW Application of Joanne Werther
- Sandra Garcon, 2019-000571-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension
- Documents regarding ASWB Release of Examination Data
- Senate Bill No. 3097: “A Bill Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health”
- 8.15.22 Letter from J. Greiner-Ferris and M. Khalsa re: Y-CBT, with attachment
- Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension
- Stephen Hoy, 20141015SW010-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation