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Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Social Workers

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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 27, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Dana Zais, Chair (arrived at 10:11 a.m., left meeting at 1 p.m.)
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Trant (arrived at 9:40 a.m.)
Shaynah Barnes Munro (left meeting at 10:45 a.m.)
Melanie Robinson Findlay (left meeting at 11 a.m., returned at 11:36 a.m.)
Quanesha Boykins
Carrie Kelley

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Alan Van Tassel, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Board Business

- **New Board Member Carrie Kelley, LICSW:** Ms. Kelley introduced herself to the Board. She works for the Department of Mental Health and is Director of Clinical Social Work and Admissions at Tewksbury Hospital.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021, Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021, Public Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021, and Complaint Subcommittee Minutes of July 14, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021, Executive Session Minutes of May 25, 2021, Public Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021, and Complaint Subcommittee Minutes of July 14, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Hearing Rescheduled in 2020-000464-IT-ENF (DE) for November 2-4, 2021:** Mr. Bialas reported that the hearing has been rescheduled and asked board members who wish to attend to notify him.



- **Board Counsel Report:** Ms. Gasson reported that board meetings by remote means are allowed by law until April 1, 2022, and, by a different law, the Board will be moving to the Department of Public Health within 18 months and the Division of Professional Licensure has been renamed the Division of Occupational Licensure.

Mr. Trant arrived at 9:40 a.m.

Application Review Interviews – Negative Reference

- **Jennifer Vanderlinden, Former Supervisor of LCSW Applicant Jill Demeny:** Ms. Vanderlinden, Ms. Demeny’s former supervisor, appeared to discuss her negative reference. Ms. Vanderlinden explained that Ms. Demeny was not a self-starter and was not confident or independent during Ms. Vanderlinden’s time as her supervisor. Ms. Demeny “overshared” in every session with clients, and when Ms. Vanderlinden discussed this with her during supervision sessions, Ms. Demeny would get defensive. Mr. Vanderlinden also reported her concerns to Ms. Demeny’s school. Although Ms. Demeny made progress in not making assumptions in her assessments, that progress was slow.

The Board discussed Ms. Demeny’s application and Ms. Vanderlinden’s interview and reference. Ms. Barnes Munro expressed concern that Ms. Demeny should not be licensed without conditions.

A motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve Ms. Demeny to examine for the LCSW license and, if she passes, be licensed under a Conditional Licensure Agreement requiring the following:

- weekly, in-person or videoconference supervision sessions for two years with an LICSW approved by the Board with quarterly reports from the supervisor to the Board;
- the supervision sessions must address countertransference; and
- any change in supervisor must be approved by the Board.

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **Exam-Use Policy Exception Request to ASWB:** The Board reviewed a draft letter to the ASWB Board of Directors requesting an exception from its Exam-Use Policy until July 1, 2023. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to approve the draft. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Zais arrived at 10:11 a.m.

- **ASWB Reporting of Examination Data and Examination Review:** The Board reviewed correspondence regarding ASWB's refusal to release certain data, including demographic data of test takers, for the licensure examination. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Zais, to direct Ms. Gasson to ask ASWB for an explanation of any terms and conditions under which ASWB would release the data to the Board for review. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Anti-Racism and Anti-Discrimination CE Policy:** The Board will review a draft policy at the next meeting.

Correspondence

- **5.11.21 Letter from M. Farrell re: CE Extension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Farrell's CE extension request but noted that she already has renewed her license and attested to completing all continuing education for the last licensing cycle. The Board directed staff to request proof of Ms. Farrell's continuing education for the last licensing cycle and to review her submission.

Board Business (Continued)

- **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2022:**

The Board discussed the election of officers for Fiscal Year 2022.

A motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Trant, to elect Ms. Boykins as Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to elect Mr. Powers as Vice Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to elect Mr. Trant as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Reviews – Negative Reference

- **Lainie Croke, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Croke's negative reference and directed staff to invite Ms. Croke's supervisor who wrote that reference to an interview at the next meeting.
- **Jessica Kuhn, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Kuhn's negative reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to allow Ms. Kuhn to take the examination. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Barnes Munro left the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

- **Laura Lambert, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lambert’s prior discipline. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to direct staff to invite Ms. Lambert to a meeting for an interview. The motion passed unanimously.

Reinstatement Request

- **Melissa Hales Keefe, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board directed staff to ask Ms. Keefe to provide a formal petition for reinstatement and any supporting documentation.

Ms. Robinson Findlay left the meeting at 11 a.m.

Monitoring Reports

- **Linda Lewis, 2017-000414-IT-ENF, Approval of CEs:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lewis’s CE submission. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Powers, to reject Ms. Lewis’s CE submission because the CEs were not pre-approved by the Board and do not satisfy the requirements in her consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, 2019-2021 Reports:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chhum’s reports. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Trant, to approve the reports but to require: (1) Ms. Chhum to make up all supervision meetings that were missed from the biweekly schedule required in her Consent Agreement; and (2) Ms. Chhum’s supervisor to write a letter to the Board discussing any areas Ms. Chhum needs to improve in and how those problems are being addressed. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Joann Oliver Lynch, 2019-001186-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lynch’s petition to terminate suspension. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Trant, to terminate Ms. Lynch’s suspension. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Maria Rose, 2017-001420-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation:** The Board reviewed Ms. Rose’s petition to terminate probation. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Trant, to terminate Ms. Rose’s probation. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 11:29 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Mr. Powers, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to review the

good moral character of two applicants, and under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B, to review sensitive medical information as part of two CE extension requests and a fitness to practice evaluation report; (2) then enter into a closed quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18 to review two final decisions and orders; (3) then enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review cases; and then, after the conclusion of the 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 11:29 a.m.

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

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 12:52 p.m.

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

Final Decisions and Orders

2019-000666-IT-ENF (MF): Determined sanction for final decision and order

Ms. Zais left the meeting at 1 p.m.

2020-000452-IT-ENF (BG): Determined sanction for final decision and order

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

At 1:09 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C to review cases. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Approval of Complaint Subcommittee Decisions

The Board approved the recommendations of the complaint subcommittee:

Determination of Recommended Discipline

2021-000033-IT-ENF (DP): Determined recommended discipline

Cases

2020-001699-IT-ENF (NI): Dismiss. Open complaint for CE violation.

2020-001149-IT-ENF (AB): Refer to Office of Prosecutions

2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC):	Consider at next meeting of full Board. Mr. Powers recused himself from the consideration of the case.
2020-001030-IT-ENF (ET):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001127-IT-ENF (MC):	Dismiss
2020-001600-IT-ENF (DE):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001679-IT-ENF (MT):	Dismiss. Open complaint for CE violation.
2020-001722-IT-ENF (DD):	Dismiss. Open complaint for CE violation.
2020-001724-IT-ENF (CC):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000069-IT-ENF (SD):	Dismiss
2021-000165-IT-ENF (JB):	Dismiss
2020-001685-IT-ENF (MB):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000113-IT-ENF (JS):	Dismiss
2021-000130-IT-ENF (CZ):	Dismiss
2021-000159-IT-ENF (LT):	Dismiss
2021-000246-IT-ENF (JN):	Dismiss
2021-000250-IT-ENF (KT):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000291-IT-ENF (KT):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000260-IT-ENF (LK):	Dismiss. Open complaint for CE violation.
2021-000278-IT-ENF (MR):	Dismiss
2021-000363-IT-ENF (KJ):	Dismiss
2021-000369-IT-ENF (NR):	Dismiss
2021-000419-IT-ENF (LL):	Consider at next meeting of full Board.
2021-000423-IT-ENF (RA):	Dismiss

New Cases

The Board took the following actions on new cases:

2021-000419-IT-ENF (LL):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC):	Consider at the next meeting with a quorum of the Board. Mr. Powers recused himself

2021-000275-IT-ENF (SD):
2021-000188-IT-ENF (MM):

2021-000499-IT-ENF (SL):

from the consideration of the
case.
Dismiss
Dismiss. Open complaint for
CE violation.
Refer to Board Counsel

Adjournment

At 1:32 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Powers, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 24, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 27, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of May 25, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes May 25, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2021
- Complaint Subcommittee Minutes of July 14, 2021
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Jill Demeny
- Draft Letter to ASWB re: Exam-Use Policy Exception Request and associated documents
- Correspondence re: ASWB Reporting of Examination Data and Examination Review
- 5.11.21 Letter from M. Farrell re: CE Extension
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Lainie Croke
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Jessica Kuhn
- LICSW Application of Laura Lambert and Consent Agreement
- Reinstatement Request of Melissa Hales Keefe and Voluntary Surrender Agreement
- Linda Lewis, 2017-000414-IT-ENF, Submission of CEs
- Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, 2019-2021 Reports
- Joann Oliver Lynch, 2019-001186-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension
- Maria Rose, 2017-001420-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation