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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Social Workers

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LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 16, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Trant, Secretary
Dana Zais
Carrie Kelley
Shaynah Barnes Munro

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Matthew Runge, Investigator
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

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

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of September 28, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 28, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Designation of Jeffrey Trant as Delegate to the ASWB Delegate Assembly:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve Mr. Trant as Massachusetts delegate to the ASWB Delegate Assembly. The motion passed unanimously, with Mr. Trant abstaining.
- **Adjudicatory Hearing in 2020-000464-IT-ENF (DE) Rescheduled to November 30, 2021 – December 2, 2021:** Ms. Barnes Munro and Ms. Kelley expressed interest in attending the hearing, and Mr. Bialas stated that he will notify the hearings officer.



- **Ratification of Decisions Made During the Executive Session on August 24, 2021 and the Public Meeting and Executive Session on September 28, 2021:**

Ms. Gasson explained that Quanesha Boykins is no longer a member of the Board because she upgraded her license from an LSWA to an LCSW. For that reason, the Board must ratify certain prior decisions made with her participation.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to ratify board decisions made during the executive session on August 24, 2021 and the public meeting and executive session on September 28, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review Interview – Prior Discipline

- **Lisa Umanita, Applicant for LICSW:** Ms. Umanita appeared to discuss her prior reprimand in 2010 for an altercation with a client at a nursing home. Ms. Umanita described the altercation and explained that she self-reported the incident to the nursing home administration, and after an investigation, was fired. The Board then opened a complaint against her. Ms. Umanita further explained that this was a “rude awakening” and led her to assess her “compassion fatigue” – she now knows when to say “no” to work and responsibilities she cannot handle. She now works at another nursing and rehabilitation facility and has had no additional problems.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Trant, to allow Ms. Umanita to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

- **Laura Carbone, Applicant for Re-Licensure as LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Carbone’s application, including her disclosure that she “gave up” her LICSW license for serious boundary violations with a client in 1994, then later had her license reinstated in 1997 on probation, then let her license lapse in 1998. The Board directed Mr. Bialas to provide Ms. Carbone with her agreements with the Board and explain to Ms. Carbone that she must comply with her reinstatement agreement. If she has, Mr. Bialas should invite her to a meeting for an interview.

Monitoring Reports

- **Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, Letter from Supervisor:** The Board reviewed a letter from Ms. Chhum’s supervisor, Maryann Paleologopoulos, responding to comments the Board previously provided regarding Ms. Chhum’s supervision. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Trant, to accept the letter and invite a petition to terminate stayed suspension from Ms. Chhum. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Fowle’s report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Powers, to accept the report. 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 10:15 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, 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 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 for interviews regarding applications, reviews of monitoring reports, and reviews of continuing education extension requests. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:15 a.m.

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

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

Cases

2018-000271-IT-ENF (JG):	Dismiss
2021-000499-IT-ENF (SL):	Dismiss
2021-000608-IT-ENF (PK):	Dismiss
2021-000414-IT-ENF (CK):	Dismiss
2021-000445-IT-ENF (CC):	Dismiss
2021-000453-IT-ENF (WW):	Dismiss
2021-000483-IT-ENF (LM):	Dismiss; open complaint for CE violation.
2021-000603-IT-ENF (RS):	Dismiss
2021-000876-IT-ENF (MM):	Dismiss
2021-000874-IT-ENF (MC):	Dismiss
2021-000875-IT-ENF (TP):	Dismiss
2021-000878-IT-ENF (AA):	Dismiss
2021-000879-IT-ENF (JF):	Dismiss
2021-000602-IT-ENF (TG):	Dismiss
2021-000773-IT-ENF (MD):	Dismiss
2021-000802-IT-ENF (BP):	Dismiss
2021-000883-IT-ENF (BD):	Dismiss
2021-000884-IT-ENF (NK):	Consider at future meeting; no action taken.
2021-000913-IT-ENF (JL):	Refer to Office of Investigations; open complaint for CE violation.
2021-000979-IT-ENF (AR):	Dismiss

Adjournment

At 1:29 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on December 21, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of November 16, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of September 28, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes of September 28, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes of August 24, 2021
- Documents regarding Prior Discipline from LICSW Application of Lisa Umanita
- Documents regarding Prior Discipline from LICSW Re-Licensure Application of Laura Carbone
- Sarah Chhum, 2018-001367-IT-ENF, Letter from Supervisor
- Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report