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

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2020

TIME: 9:30 AM

ATTENDANCE: Dana Zais, Chair
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Jeffrey Trant
Shaynah Barnes

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel

Pursuant to Governor Charles D. Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, dated March 12, 2020, all board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:41 a.m.

Executive Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1), Individual Character Rather Than Competence)

At 9:42 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to exit open session and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to review the good moral character of an applicant. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 10:17 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to exit executive session and return to the open session. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring Interview

- **Beth Ross, 20160720SW001-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation**
 - **Interview of Beth Ross and Supervisor Robin Haas:** Ms. Ross and Mx. Haas appeared with Ms. Sheri Pizzi, attorney for Ms. Ross, to discuss Ms. Ross's petition. Ms. Ross explained that she no longer works as a reunification specialist in high-conflict divorces but rather only as a divorce coach and mediator in low-conflict divorces. In addition, Ms. Ross has changed many of her administrative



practices, including clarifying her role with clients, has taken trainings, and is more mindful of boundary issues.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020 and Executive Session Minutes of July 28, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020 and the Executive Session Minutes of July 28, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **ASWB Examination-Use Policy:** Ms. Gasson gave an update to the Board that she will ask DCF, NASW, and NABSW for comments on a proposed statutory change that would require LSW candidates to have a bachelor's degree in social work, and that the proposed statutory change has been submitted to the Governor's Office for consideration.
- **Proposal for Anti-Racism CEU Requirement:** The Board decided to consider the topic next month.

Monitoring Reports

- **Vijay Dalal, 2018-001211-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension and Begin Stayed Suspension:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the petition. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Interview

- **Negative Reference**
 - **Interview of Ronald Williams, Applicant for LICSW:** Mr. Williams appeared to discuss the negative reference he received from his supervisor Lilith Wolinsky, who wrote that Mr. Williams did not adequately prepare for visits with his clients. Mr. Williams stated that, although he would not always review electronic medical records before preparing for client visits, he would talk with other specialists. He also described his difficulty getting a job with the Veterans Administration, and that once his coworkers at the Veterans Administration mocked his injury. He said that he was the only minority in his department, and that Ms. Wolinsky's reference is based on racial discrimination.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Wolinsky to the next meeting to discuss her reference.

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

At 11:47 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit open session and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C to review a settlement offer and new cases. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Settlement:

2019-001186-IT-ENF (JL): Direction given to prosecutor

Cases:

2020-000451-IT-ENF (Meredith Flanagan)	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-000612-IT-ENF (Harrington Behavioral Health)	Close, no action taken
2020-000549-IT-ENF (Sosa Samura)	No action taken

At 12:05 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit investigative conference and return to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review

- **Sosa Samura, Applicant for LCSW:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Zais, to deny the application because the applicant has not shown that she “will conduct [her] professional activities as a certified social worker in accordance with generally accepted professional standards” under G.L. c. 112, s. 131. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Zais, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the open meeting held on September 22, 2020.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of August 25, 2020
- Public Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes of July 28, 2020

- 8.19.19 Letter from M. Monahan of ASWB re: Exam-Use Policy
- 6.19.20 Email from S. Crowley re: Anti-Racism CEUs
- LICSW Application of Ronald Williams
- LCSW Application of Sosa Samura
- Vijay Dalal, 2018-001211-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension and Begin Stayed Suspension
- Beth Ross, 20160720SW001-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation