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MIKE KENNEALY
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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

1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

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

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Dana Zais, Chair
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Melanie Robinson Findlay
Quanesha Boykins

STAFF: Brian Bialas, 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 9:33 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review Interview

- **Negative Reference Interview**
 - **Interview of Lauren Bishop, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board interviewed Ms. Bishop regarding the negative reference she received from Jane Linsley. Ms. Bishop explained that the reference is from her supervisor when she was living and working at Gould Farm for several months during the pandemic. She explained that this was a challenging experience: because she was living on-site,



patients inevitably learned some things about her, and it was more difficult to maintain boundaries. Ms. Bishop now does outpatient work and is much happier.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to allow Ms. Bishop to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review – Negative Reference

- **Emily Berman, Applicant for LCSW:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Berman to a Board meeting for an interview.
- **Jill Demeny, Applicant for LCSW:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Berman to a Board meeting for an interview.
- **Suzanne Macaluso, Applicant for LICSW:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to get more information from Ms. Macaluso's former supervisor who wrote the negative reference and to include Ms. Macaluso's other references for the Board's review in the meeting packet when staff receives the additional information.

Application Review – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Sarah Lee, Applicant for LICSW License Renewal:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Lee to a Board meeting for an interview.

Executive Session (Closed Session 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)

At 10:17 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session 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 an application review, an interview for a petition for reinstatement, and the interview of an applicant with discipline in another jurisdiction. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 11:07 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit executive session and enter into a quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18 to discuss a final decision and order. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

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

Final Decision and Order

2020-000452-IT-ENF (BG)

Refer to Office of Prosecutions

At 11:16 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to discuss a settlement offer and new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

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

Settlement

2019-000571-IT-ENF (SG): Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

2020-001708-IT-ENF (AJ): Dismiss with advisory letter to complainant
2020-001094-IT-ENF (VS): Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001149-IT-ENF (AB): Invite respondent to an interview
2020-001227-IT-ENF (JM): Dismiss
2020-001638-IT-ENF (HC): Dismiss
2020-001725-IT-ENF (RC): Discuss at next meeting when the Board has a quorum. Mr. Powers recused himself from the consideration of this case.
2021-000033-IT-ENF (DP): Refer to Office of Prosecutions

Adjournment

At 11:57 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on April 27, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of March 23, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes of February 23, 2021
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LICSW Application of Lauren Bishop

- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Emily Berman
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Jill Demeny
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LICSW Application of Suzanne Macaluso
- Documents regarding Prior Discipline of Sarah Lee, Applicant for LICSW License Renewal