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## Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Dana Zais, Chair  
Richard Powers, Vice Chair  
Melanie Robinson Findlay  
Quanesha Boykins (arrived 9:39 a.m.)  
Shaynah Barnes Munro

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel  
Alan Van Tassel, Investigator  
Doris Lugo, Investigator

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 9:35 a.m.

### Board Business

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

### Discussion

- **Update on Anti-Racism CE Meeting:** The Board directed staff to schedule a public meeting on whether the Board should require CEUs in anti-racism activism and organizing on June 15, 2021 at 10 a.m.

Ms. Boykins arrived at 9:39 a.m.



- **Monitoring Instructions:** Mr. Bialas discussed draft monitoring instructions to provide to licensees who must be supervised because of discipline by the Board or a conditional licensure agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to approve the draft monitoring instructions with changes. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Application Review Interviews – Negative Reference**

- **Emily Berman, Applicant for LCSW:** Ms. Berman appeared to discuss a negative reference in her application. She explained that her internship with the negative reference was three years ago, and she has grown as a social worker since then by improving her self-care practices, getting better supervision, and being more mindful of boundary issues. She now does case management instead of therapy.

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

- **Jill Demeny, Applicant for LCSW:** Ms. Demeny appeared to discuss a negative reference in her application. In particular, she addressed the counter-transference and self-disclosure issues her reference identified. She stated that she discloses information about herself to put her clients at ease and is not sure why her supervisor saw that as a problem. Ms. Demeny explained that she works part-time at two different agencies and gets weekly supervision at each position.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite one of Ms. Demeny's current supervisors and her former supervisor who provided a negative reference to a meeting for interviews.

### **Application Review Interview – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction**

- **Sarah Lee, Applicant for LICSW License Renewal:** Ms. Lee appeared with her attorneys Sean LaPorta and Hannah Konowitz to discuss her disclosure on her renewal that the California Board disciplined her license there. Ms. Lee explained that in 2017, a client was breaching boundaries with her, and, after Ms. Lee tried to set boundaries, the client filed a complaint against her. In February 2020, Ms. Lee admitted that the California Board could prove the charges against her and accepted three years of probation with conditions under a consent agreement with the California Board to avoid a hearing and more severe discipline.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to refer the matter to the Office of Investigations to gather additional information from the California Board.

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

At 11:03 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to (1) exit the public meeting and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to conduct case interviews; (2) then 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 a petition for reinstatement, monitoring reports, and a CE extension request; and (3) then enter into a closed quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18 to review a final decision and order. 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:

2020-001699-IT-ENF (NI):	Interviewed respondent
2020-001149-IT-ENF (AB):	Interviewed respondent

**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 12:39 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to exit investigative conference 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 a petition for reinstatement, monitoring reports, and a CE extension request. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 12:39 p.m.

The Board did not enter quasi-judicial session and returned to the public meeting at 12:54 p.m.

### **Application Reviews – Negative Reference**

- **Marlene Surun, Applicant for LCSW:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Zais, to allow Ms. Surun to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Ayala Royster, Applicant for LICSW:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to allow Ms. Royster to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Monitoring Reports**

- **Maria Rose, 2017-001420-IT-ENF, 6th, 7th, and 8th Quarterly Monitoring Reports:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to accept the reports. The motion passed unanimously.

## **Adjournment**

At 1:00 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 25, 2021.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

### **List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:**

- Agenda for Meeting of April 27, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes of March 23, 2021
- Draft Monitoring Instructions
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Emily Berman
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Jill Demeny
- Documents regarding Prior Discipline of Sarah Lee, Applicant for LICSW License Renewal