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Board of Registration of Social Workers

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Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 22, 2020

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Dana Zais, Chair
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Quanesha Boykins, Secretary
Jeffrey Trant (left meeting at 12:27 p.m.)
Shaynah Barnes

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
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 9:34 a.m.

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 9:34 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, 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 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 a CEU extension request. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 10:25 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit executive session and return to the open session. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020 and Executive Session Minutes of August 25, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by



Mr. Powers, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020 and the Executive Session Minutes of August 25, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- **8.26.20 Email from N. Martin re: CEU Extension:** The Board considered Ms. Martin's request for an extension of time to complete her CEU requirements that she states she needs because of the pandemic. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to allow Ms. Martin an additional three months to complete her CEUs. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Reviews

- **Negative Reference Interview**
 - **Lilith Wolinsky, Former Supervisor of LICSW Applicant Ronald Williams:** Ms. Wolinsky, Ms. Williams's supervisor for 5 months at the Veterans Administration (VA), appeared to discuss her negative reference for Mr. Williams. Specifically, Ms. Wolinsky discussed Mr. Williams's lack of preparation before home visits with clients and his poor attitude during supervision sessions – including his lack of preparation for supervision sessions, failure to improve, and falling asleep twice during sessions. She also discussed that, at the time of her supervision, Mr. Williams was only doing about two home visits a week because it was a slow time at the VA. Mr. Williams's failure to prepare, in her opinion, may have put people at risk. Although Mr. Williams did mention to Ms. Wolinsky that he felt he was being discriminated against at the VA, she noted that he was not doing the job well, and that other VA employees had concerns about Mr. Williams's performance. Ms. Wolinsky does not know whether the VA investigated Mr. Williams's claims of discrimination.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Mr. Williams and Mr. Williams's other supervisors at the VA for interviews.

- **Prior Discipline**
 - **Danielle Greaves:** The Board discussed Ms. Greaves' past \$100 fine for unlicensed practice. A motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Barnes, to allow Ms. Greaves to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.
 - **Sara Black:** The Board discussed Ms. Black's past \$3000 fine for unlicensed practice. A motion was made by Mr. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to allow Ms. Black to continue with the licensing process once she has paid all of the fine. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **Proposal for Anti-Racism CEU Requirement:** The Board discussed a proposal to require three CEUs every licensing cycle in anti-racism activism and organizing. The Board directed staff to schedule a Board meeting dedicated to the discussion of this topic and to invite stakeholder groups.

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

At 12:18 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to exit open session and 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.

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

2020-000091-IT-ENF (DK):	Determined sanction for final decision and order; refer matter to Attorney General
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Investigative Conference (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C)

At 12:24 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to exit quasi-judicial 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.

Mr. Trant left the meeting at 12:27 p.m.

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

Settlement:

2019-001186-IT-ENF (JL):	Gave direction to prosecutor
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Cases:

2020-000548-IT-ENF (DA):	Dismiss
2020-000632-IT-ENF (MS):	Dismiss

Adjournment

At 12:34 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the open meeting held on October 27, 2020.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of September 22, 2020
- Public Meeting Minutes of August 25, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes of August 25, 2020
- 8.26.20 Email from N. Martin re: CEU Extension
- LICSW Application of Ronald Williams
- LCSW Application of Danielle Greaves and Statement of Discipline
- LICSW Application of Sara Black and Final Decision and Order in Sara Black, 2017-001146-IT-ENF
- Emails of 6.4.20 and 6.9.20 from S. Crowley re: Anti-Racism CEUs
- Email of 7.30.20 from M. Robinson Findlay re: Anti-Racism CEUs