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Division of Professional Licensure
Board of Registration of Social Workers

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

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 28, 2020

TIME: 9:30 AM

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

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Alan Van Tassel, 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 9:32 a.m.

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

At 9:32 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, 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. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 10:28 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Zais, to exit executive session and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review settlement offers 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:

Settlements:

2019-001186-IT-ENF (JL):

Direction Given to Prosecutor



2019-001028-IT-ENF (CS):

Direction Given to Prosecutor

Cases:

2020-000511-IT-ENF (JL):

Refer to Office of Prosecutions

2020-000425-IT-ENF (SJ):

Dismiss with Advisory Letter

2020-000409-IT-ENF (EK):

Dismiss

2020-000265-IT-ENF (DC):

Dismiss. Open CE Complaint.

2019-001036-IT-ENF (JN):

Dismiss with Advisory Letter

2020-000435-IT-ENF (ED):

Refer to Office of Prosecutions

2018-001304-IT-ENF (TM):

Dismiss

2020-000199-IT-ENF (AB):

Close, No Action Taken.

2020-000549-IT-ENF (SS):

Dismiss

At 11:45 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Mr. Powers, to exit investigative conference and return to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

Public Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020 and Executive Session Minutes of June 23, 2020

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020 with changes, and the Executive Session Minutes of June 23, 2020 without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Elections for FY2021

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Mr. Powers, to elect the following Board members to officer positions for Fiscal Year 2021:

- Dana Zais – Chair
- Richard Powers – Vice Chair
- Quanesha Boykins – Secretary

The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **ASWB Examination-Use Policy:** Ms. Gasson updated the Board that Bruce Hopper is still seeking permission to solicit comments from certain stakeholder groups regarding a proposed statutory change that would require LSW candidates to have a bachelor's degree in social work. Ms. Boykins asked that the NABSW be included as a stakeholder.
- **Proposal for Anti-Racism CEU Requirement:** After a brief discussion, the Board decided to review this topic again next month.

- **English as a Second Language (ESL) Examination Accommodation Request Process:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to not require the Board form for ESL Examination Accommodation Requests anymore and to only require the ASWB form. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Delegation of Authority to Approve Individual Continuing Education Activities:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the following delegation:

The Board's Executive Director, Associate Executive Director, and the Division of Professional Licensure's Deputy Commissioner of Boards are hereby authorized to act on behalf of the Board to approve Individual Continuing Education Activities and determine the appropriate number of Continuing Education Hours for each such Activity under 258 CMR 31.04(4).

The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- **6.1.20 Email from C. Neville re: Teleconference Interview:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to allow Ms. Neville to appear by videoconference to discuss her application to be an LICSW and her discipline in another jurisdiction. The motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring Reports

- **Karen Thornton, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 17th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Boykins, seconded by Mr. Powers, to reject the report because Ms. Thornton and her supervisor are only meeting every other week and not every week as required in the consent agreement. Mr. Bialas will write a letter to both Ms. Thornton and her supervisor regarding this issue. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Beth Ross, 20160720SW001-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Ross and her supervisor to the next meeting for an interview on the petition.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the open meeting held on August 25, 2020.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 28, 2020
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes of June 23, 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
- ASWB ESL Examination Accommodation Form
- Board ESL Accommodation Form
- Delegation of Authority to Approve Individual Continuing Education Activities
- 6.1.20 Email from C. Neville re: Teleconference Interview
- Karen Thornton, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 17th Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Beth Ross, 20160720SW001-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation