

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
Monday, June 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Synergy Business Park in the Kingtree Building
110 Centerview Drive, Room 105
Columbia SC 29210

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Jane Anker, Vice-Chair
Catherine Buchanan, Chaired the Meeting
D. Scott Stephens, Public Member
Harold Patrick, Jr., Member (12:03 arrival)
Jacqueline Lowe, Member

Absent Members

Lynn Melton, Chairperson, Absent

Staff Present

Mary League, Advice Counsel
Marlo Thomas-Koger, Board Administrator

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the office of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Social Work, Synergy Business Park, Kingtree Building, 110 Centerview Drive in Columbia, SC, was posted on the Board website and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum is noted as *present/not present*. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

In accordance with the Governor's directives regarding social distancing, the meeting will be held via teleconference. Members of the public who wish to attend may do so by telephone. The telephone number and access code are provided on the posted agenda.

NOTE: These Minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.

Call to Order

Ms. Buchanan, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

Approval of Ms. Buchanan serving today as Acting Chair:

Motion: In open session, Ms. Lowe made a motion to approve Ms. Buchanan as acting chair for today's meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Anker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: In open session, by raised hand, Ms. Anker made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve Ms. Melton's absence and Mr. Patrick's late arrival. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Lowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: In open session, Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve the January 27, 2020, meeting minutes – no corrections noted. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Lowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report: Ms. Angela Baldwin from the Office of Investigations (OIE) presented five (5) cases for dismissals, two (2) letters of caution and two (2) formal complaints.

Dismissal Cases: 5

- 2019-16
- 2019-20
- 2019-34
- 2019-35
- 2019-55

Letter of Caution Cases: 2

- 2019-18
- 2019-50

Formal Complaint Cases: 2

- 2019-25
- 201929

Motion: In open session, Ms. Anker made a motion to approve the five (5) cases for dismissal, two (2) letters of caution and two (2) formal complaints. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC): Tina Brown, Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) presented the ODC report to the Board. The Board reviewed the report as information.

Finance Report: Ms. Thomas-Koger, presented the financial report to the Board. The Board reviewed the report as information.

Administrator's Remarks: Ms. Koger, Board Administrator addressed the Board. No motion made.

Application Hearings

Willie Bethune, LMSW #314: The purpose of this hearing is that **Mr. Bethune** is seeking relief from conditions of his prior board order.

Mr. Patrick was not present for the hearing.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Lowe made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice from counsel regarding Mr. Bethune's request. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Anker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Session: No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Lowe made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Motion: In open session, Ms. Lowe made a motion for general counsel or advice counsel to read the recommendation from the case. Ms. League stated that the motion of the Board in regards to this matter is to approve the request to restore Mr. Bethune's status to that of LISW. If he wishes to be an LISW Supervisor, he must appear before the Board one year from today and have taken the supervisor course prior to that date.

The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. Three were in favor; one opposed and the motion passed.

Social Work Board Committee Meeting Update

Mr. Patrick stated the committee was tasked with looking at the supervision issue for LISW. The committee discussed scope of work, and theories of practice. A representative from the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) participated in the conference calls to look at some of the specifics and to hear what's happening around the country, and what other states are doing. The committee discussed LMSW and clinical practice under an LISW in a recognized organized setting as a social, governmental, or medical agency. The committee also discussed the supervisor's availability, the duties of a clinical social worker, the quality of clinical services provided, reviews, sign offs and billing for clinical services provided. Ms. Buchanan commented. The committee touched on Medicaid and non-Medicaid services and billing. The committee discussed revisions to the board's existing supervision contract.

New Business

Review List of New Licensees: The Board reviewed the list of new licensees as information.

Discussion and Vote on Regulation Review and Regulation Review Task Force:

Ms. Buchanan stated she and Mr. Patrick will continue working on the regulatory review since they were on the original task force/committee. Ms. Buchanan invited other board members to join them. Ms. Anker joined the committee. The committee will later discuss a broader range of stakeholders and members of the community who can join them. The task force will submit their recommendations for stake holders to the Board Administrator for consideration. A discussion ensued.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Patrick made a motion to establish a task force with board members, Mr. Patrick, Ms. Buchanan, Ms. Anker as members, and with stakeholder participation being coordinated through the Administrator. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion and Vote on clarification of practice settings for Licensed Master Social Work (LMSW) Supervised Clinical Practice:

Ms. Thomas-Koger expressed concern about the hospitals, governmental and medical agencies but later saw clarity in the explanation given by the committee members. Further discussion ensued. Ms. Buchanan stated that you don't need to be an LISW to be a supervisor in a hospital setting. There are many things that social workers do that don't require the oversight of an LISW. But if they're stepping into psychotherapy, that we felt pretty strongly that the same standards need to apply to all.

Mr. Patrick added that private providers that receive Medicaid dollars and provide those services they're required to have an LISW on staff or social workers or licensed professional counselor. They all come under the same requirement. So it's difficult to have a set of requirements for one entity that's not applicable for all in the same level of clinical services. Further discussion ensued. Ms. League summarized Ms. Thomas-Koger's concerns with the following questions: where does the supervising LISW have to provide services for the agency? Which agency? All agencies or just a social agency? After further discussion, Mr. Patrick agreed to get the supervision contract ironed out for clarification.

Ms. League clarified that the Board's guidance would not be effective until the new contract is approved by the Board. Board members.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Stephens agreed with the motion that there would be a vote on the interim guidance with the contract as presented with the clarification that the LISW who supervises the LMSW on site does not necessarily have to be the contract supervisor. And that the guidance is not effective until the new contract is reviewed and approved by the Board. Until that time, the old provisions remain in place. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Lowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion and Vote on Social Work 2020 Renewal Dates and Continuing Education (CE) Requirements:

The Board discussed extending the time for compliance based on the inability of a social work conference to have been held in March. There was a general agreement to extend the continuing education requirement. Ms. Thomas-Koger stated this year we are using CE Broker. Licensees would have their documentation uploaded to CE Broker no later than March 31, 2021.

Motion: In open session Mr. Stephens made a motion to approve extending the time to meet continuing education requirements for renewal to March 31st, 2021 with notification to the licensees via e-blast and the website. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Patrick. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Consideration of Appointment of Hearing Officer:

Motion: In open session, there was a motion made to name Ms. Melton and Ms. Buchanan as hearing officers. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Lowe. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion and Vote on November 16, 2020 Board Meeting Date:

Motion: In open session, there was a motion made by Mr. Stephens to approve a November 16, 2020 board meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by Ms. Lowe and Ms. Anker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Application Hearings: Amy Helms

Motion: In open session, Mr. Patrick made a motion to go into executive session to receive legal advice from counsel regarding Ms. Helms' case. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Executive Session: No votes were taken during executive session.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Stephens made a motion to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anker. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Motion: In open session, Mr. Patrick made a motion to approve Ms. Helms request for LISW supervision through New Hope with credit for hours already obtained and for her to request an extension through the board if needed. The motion was seconded and approved by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Continuing Education Sponsorships for Approval: None were made.

Public Comments: None were made.

Adjournment: 1:56 p.m.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned. No motion was made.

Marlo Koger, Administrator
S.C. Board of Social Work Examiners

Date