

**S.C. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, LICENSING AND REGULATION
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
TELECONFERENCE BOARD MEETING AGENDA
Monday, May 17, 2021
Start Time: 10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

Board Members Present

Lynn Melton, Chairperson
Catherine M. Buchanan, Vice Chair
Jacqueline S. Lowe
Harold T. "Pat" Patrick, Jr.
D. Scott Stephens

Absent Members – Jacqueline Lowe

Staff Present

Mary League, Advice Counsel
Roselind Bailey-Glover, Board Administrator
Allison Baker, Administrative Coordinator, WebEx Host
Zahid Chinwalla – Web Ex Co-Host
Jack Beasley, Assistant Director
Tina Brown, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Angela Baldwin, Office of Investigative Enforcement
Melanie Farnham, Court Reporter

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, Kingstree 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. Melton, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference.

Approval of the Agenda:

MOTION: In open session, Ms. Buchanan made a motion to approve the agenda as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Chairman’s Remarks: **Lynn Melton**

Ms. Melton inquired about the return to live sessions. Mr. Beasley will look into a live session for the September

meeting but it was too soon to tell. The Administrator will get back to board members.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members

MOTION: Ms. Buchanan made a motion to approve the absence of board member Jacqueline Lowe. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stephens. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approval of the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Buchanan made a motion to approve the minutes from January 25, 2021 as written. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patrick. All were in favor and the motion passed

Administrative Reports

Office of Investigations and Enforcement Reports (OIE/IRC) Ms. Baldwin presented the OIE report to the board for consideration and a vote.

MOTION: Mr. Patrick made a motion to approve the OIE/IRC report as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Office of Disciplinary Counsel Report (ODC) – Ms. Brown presented the ODC report to the board as information only. Cases: 10 pending; 3 pending hearing; 4 pending investigation and 3 pending further processing.

Administrator's Remarks

Finance Report: The Finance Report was presented by Ms. Bailey-Glover as information only.

CE Broker Report and Audit Requirements Presentation

Ms. Deb Carter from CE Broker presented the board with information on how CE Broker can assist with conducting a CEU audit on active licenses after the renewal period was over. Once licensees register with CE Broker they are able to requests CEU transcripts online and upload CE certificated at any time. CE Broker stores an electronic record of CEUs logged into their system for easy accounting of how many CEs have been completed and the remaining number needed to renew a license for the coming renewal period. Board members expressed concerns about difficulty they experienced registering for the Basic Free Account. There was also some confusion with CE Brokers calculation that represented one (1) CEU as equal to ten (10) clock hours which was incorrect. Deb will make the correction within the system. Board members thanked Ms. Carter for her presentation.

Application Hearings

Nicole Bixler – Closed Session

MOTION: Mr. Patrick made a motion to go into closed session in compliance with confidentiality laws. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION: Mr. Stephens made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION: Ms. Buchanan made a motion to return to closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patrick. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION Mr. Patrick made a motion to allow the endorsement application process to move forward. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Board members and advice counsel returned to public session.

Brian J. Ramich

Mr. Ramich appeared before the board regarding the 2020 renewal with a yes answer. Mr. Ramich testified on his own behalf and the board members asked questions about the renewal answer provided.

MOTION: Mr. Stephens made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION: Mr. Stephens made a motion to return to public session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Patrick. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION Mr. Patrick made a motion to move forward with the renewal process. A formal board order will be issued stipulating three (3) years of probation in this state and to provide an annual SLED check to the board. If the three years of probation in the other state concludes early or is reduced, probation in SC can be discontinued with the board's permission. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Cynthia Watson

Ms. Watson appeared before the board with a yes answer on the LMSW application by examination. Mr. Watson testified on her own behalf and the board members asked questions.

MOTION: Mr. Patrick made a motion to go into executive session for legal advice. Mr. Stephens was placed in the lobby as he recused himself. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION: Mr. Patrick made a motion to return to public session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

MOTION Mr. Patrick made a motion to allow the application process to move forward for licensure. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Mr. Stephens rejoined the board members in public session.

Lunch: Board members adjourned for Lunch. Returned at 1:15 p.m.

Disciplinary Hearing

NFOH. MOA – 2017-8 – Confidential hearing. Locked room from the public and break out room for respondent and their attorney. Due to technical difficulties and time constraints this hearing is postponed until the September 20, 2021 Board meeting.

New Business

Review List of New Licensees as information only.

Board Attendee Report

Ms. Buchanan and Ms. Lowe attended the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) 2021 Spring Education Conference, April 29, 2021 – May 1, 2021 virtual meeting. There were no significant updates to report. Ms. Lowe attended several sessions and participated in a committee meeting but she was absent from this meeting.

Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) 2021 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly

November 18-20, 2021, New Orleans, Louisiana Vote on Attendees.

MOTION: Mr. Patrick made a motion to approve Mr. Stephens to attend the ASWB Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Buchanan. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Regulation Task Force Committee Members -Vote and Discussion

Task force members initially consisted of Mr. Patrick, Ms. Buchanan and Ms. Anker who is no longer with the board. Mary League stated that definitions would be added but no other items were recommended for review. It was recommended that additional stakeholders like an educator or other stakeholders from the industry participate or the board can choose to move forward with Mr. Patrick and Ms. Buchanan. Board members would need to come up with names of external stakeholders and provide those names to the Administrator, Ms. Glover. After further discussion, Ms. League recommended the board hold off on the task force committee and just table it for now.

Revised Supervision Contract – Discussion and Vote

Ms. League opened the discussion. Board member debated over LMSW supervision in various industry settings and no private practice. It became clear that the Practice Act has not kept pace with the practice of social work. Board members will need to further define the LMSW role and update the regulation. Based on the discussion board members will need outside stakeholder input to clarify the definitions on the contract.

Ms. League will go ahead and submit the notice of drafting to be posted for regulation definitions update, budget proviso added, telehealth is already in the statute, but the issue of out of state telehealth was questionable. Ms. League stated that regulation change was different from statutory changes and the names of external participants for the regulations task force should be provided to the Administrator, Ms. Glover.

Discussion Topics

Determine how many supervisees can an LISW-CP / AP supervisor have at any given time. A brief discussing took place without conclusion. Board will review supervision guidelines and standards for supervision.

Remaining 2021 Board Meeting Dates – Information only

Public Comments: There were none.

Adjournment: 4:02 p.m.

MOTION: Ms. Buchanan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Patrick seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.