

MINUTES

SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Monday, May 19, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Synergy Business Park - Kingstree Building
Upstate Conference Room
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210

Board Members Present

Lynn Melton, Chairperson
D. Scott Stephens, Vice-Chair
Jefferey Cameron
Dell Lancaster
Alicia Nix

Absent Members

Jacqueline S. Lowe

SCLLR Staff Members Present

Virginia Wetzel, LLR Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs
Megan Flannery, Esq., Office of Advice Counsel
Sherrie Butterbaugh, Office of Disciplinary Counsel
Amelia Leeks, Office of Investigations
Yarikza Alexander, Office of Investigations
April Howe, Office of Investigations
Renee Dash, Office of Investigations
Pam Dunkin, Board Executive
Shaun Strother, Program Coordinator

Present

Creel 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.

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

Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Melton, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Approval of the Amended Agenda

MOTION

On the motion of Ms. Lancaster, seconded by Mr. Cameron, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda. The motion passed.

Approval/Disapproval of Absent Members

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Cameron, the board voted unanimously to approve the absence of Jacqueline Lowe. The motion passed.

Approval of the Minutes – February 24, 2025

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Scott, seconded by Ms. Lancaster, the board voted unanimously in favor to approve the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

Vice -Chairperson Remarks – Ms. Melton

Ms. Melton addressed the Board.

Legislative Update – Virginia Wetzel, LLR Office of Communications and Governmental Affairs

Ms. Wetzel addressed the Board and provided the Legislative Update. She provided information on the budget and a few Bills such as the Social Work Compact (3752 and 3021).

Disciplinary Hearing – (Closed)

Case# 2022-28: This is a closed hearing in accordance with the state and federal confidentiality laws.

The board remained in closed session.

Administrative Reports

Amelia Leeks, Office of Investigations introduced Yarikza Alexander to the Board.

a. Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report – Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Ms. Alexander, presented the OIE report to the board.

The board reviewed the Statistical Report as information only.

b. Investigative Review Conference (IRC) Report – Office of Investigations and Enforcement

Ms. Alexander, presented the board with twelve (12) dismissals, two (2) formal complaints and one (1) letter of caution.

Dismissals

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Cameron, seconded by Ms. Nix, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for dismissal of the twelve (12) cases. The motion passed.

Formal Complaints

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Scott, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for the two (2) Formal Complaints. The motion passed.

Letter of Caution

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Scott, the board voted unanimously in favor to accept the IRC recommendations for the one (1) Letter of Caution. The motion passed.

c. Office of Disciplinary Counsel (ODC) Report– Sherrie Butterbaugh

Ms. Butterbaugh provided the ODC Report to the board for informational purposes only.

The Board returned to open session.

MOTION

On the motion of Mr. Cameron, seconded by Mr. Scott, the board voted to return to open session. The motion passed.

d. Board Executive Reports/Remarks – Pam Dunkin

Mrs. Dunkin addressed the board and provided the following for informational purposes only:

- Finance Report

Mrs. Melton, had a few questions/concerns about the “Shared Expense” balance listed on the finance report. Mrs. Dunkin, stated that she will double check with LLR’s finance department on what is being reported for accuracy.

- CE Broker Report
- Review List of New Licensees: 1/31/2025 – 5/12/2025
- Review List of S.C. Licensees by County (In-State and Out-of-State)

Mrs. Melton, expressed her appreciation for the Board being provided the list of S.C. Licensees by County.

- Ratification and Continuing Education Sponsorships Approved: 1/31/2025 – 5/12/2025

Mr. Cameron addressed the Board, regarding the approved Continuing Education (CE) Sponsorships.

New Business

a. Board Member Reports:

- Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) 2025 Spring Education Conference being held in Portland, Oregon, May 2-3, 2025

Mr. D. Scott Stephens and Mr. Jefferey Cameron addressed the Board.

Mr. Cameron, mentioned that discussions were had about the pass rates for the exams based on ethnic background and the interstate compact.

Mr. Stephens, also mentioned that he felt that the main discussions were the exams being fair to everyone who takes them.

Mrs. Dunkin made mention of a “Criminal Background Check” that would need to be in place for an interstate compact.

b. Discussion: Expert Reviewers – Pam Dunkin

Mrs. Dunkin, expressed to the Board that the Office of Investigations are needing them to select expert reviewers.

Meghan Flannery, Advice Counsel and Mrs. Dunkin further explained to the Board the roles of an Expert Reviewer in the investigation process when a complaint is made to the Board.

Mrs. Dunkin, made mention that a ‘E-Blast’ was sent to licensees earlier in the month regarding the need for “Expert Reviewers” and the deadline being the 14th.

The Board reviewed the list of names provided for prospect “Expert Reviewers” compiled to date. It was decided that candidates should be selected as follows: Licensed with the S.C. Social Work Board for ten (10) years continuously, no disciplinary history, and actively working.

The “Agenda” topic “Expert Reviewers” will be tabled to the next upcoming Board Meeting being held for discussion and vote. The Board will need to select ten (10) top candidates to be presented at the next board meeting from the list provided by staff. No motion was made.

Reminder of 2025 Board Meeting Dates

- August 18, 2025
- November 17, 2025

The Board reviewed the reminder of 2025 Board Meeting Dates as information only.

Public Comments: There were no public comments presented.

Adjournment:

MOTION

Mr. Scott moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lancaster. All were in favor and the motion passed. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.