

TENNESSEE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE MINUTES

DATE: February 6, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m. CDT
LOCATION: Iris Room, Ground Floor
665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Robert Zylstra, LCSW, Chair
Kenya Anderson, LMSW, Secretary
Rachel Horton, LBSW
Kenneth J. White, LAPSW
Tara Watson, LCSW
Ann-Marie Buchanan, LMSW
Jennifer Williams, LAPSW
Kimberly Mallory, LAPSW
Ashley Childers, LCSW

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Karen A. Armstrong, Citizen Member
BJ Whitsitt, LBSW

STAFF PRESENT: Christi Stacey, board Administrator
Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Assistant General Counsel

Robert Zylstra, board chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. A roll call was conducted and a quorum was present. The board staff introduced themselves: Christi Stacey, Board Administrator, Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director, and Nathaniel Flinchbaugh, Advisory Attorney. Ms. Wilkins introduced Ms. Debbie Pruitt; the new licensing tech for the Social Work Board.

Minutes

The minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed and a motion to approve was made by Ms. Williams seconded by Ms. Buchanan. The motion carried.

Investigative Report

Ms. Lori Leonard, disciplinary coordinator for the board gave the summary of currently monitored practitioners. Currently monitoring one (1) under a board order/reprimand, seven (7) licensees under probation, five (5) license under suspension two (2) under a revocation.

Ms. Leonard stated that investigations had received and opened twelve (12) new complaints for LMSW's in the year 2019. Of the twelve complaints the allegations are regarding one (1) for falsification of records, one (1) for substance abuse, two (2) for criminal charges, four (4) for unprofessional conduct, one (1) lapsed license, one (1) criminal conviction, one (1) practice beyond the scope, and one that was outside of the investigative scope. Investigations closed a total of sixteen (16) complaints to date. Five (5) were closed and sent to the Office of General Counsel for formal discipline, seven (7) were closed with no action, three (3) were closed with a letter of concern, and one (1) with a letter of warning. Ms. Leonard reminded the board that letters of concern and letters of warning are not reportable to the national practitioner data bank because they are not considered as formal discipline. At the end of 2019 there were five (5) open complaints regarding licensed master's social workers that are being reviewed or investigated. For licensed master's social workers so far in the year 2020, investigations had received and opened one (1) new complaint. Those complaints were for falsifying records, and currently have five (5) open complaints that are being reviewed and or investigated. For licensed advanced practice social workers investigations opened one (1) new complaint. That complaint was for practice beyond the scope of practice. They closed (1) complaint which was sent to the Office of General Counsel for formal discipline, and had two (2) open complaints at the end of 2019 that were being reviewed and or investigated. For licensed advanced practice social workers so far in the year 2020, investigations has received and opened one (1) new complaint. They have closed no complaints, with two (2) that are being reviewed and or investigated. There were no new complaints for licensed baccalaureate social workers for the year 2019. There was one (1) that closed for insufficient evidence to discipline from the prior year. With one (1) complaint that remains open from the end of 2018 and one (1) complaint open that was being reviewed and or investigated at the close of 2019. For licensed baccalaureate social workers so far in the year 2020 investigations has received one (1) complaint regarding drug diversion, and have one (1) complaint open. For licensed clinical social workers during the year 2019 received and opened a total of fourteen (14) new complaints; of those complaints one (1) was for unlicensed practice, nine (9) were for unprofessional conduct, one (1) lapsed license, and three (3) were outside of the investigative scope. Investigations closed a total of nineteen (19) complaints; three (3) were closed with insufficient evidence to formally discipline, eight (8) were closed in investigations and sent to the office of general counsel for formal discipline, seven (7) were closed with no actions, and one (1) was closed with a letter of warning. At the end of 2019 investigations had eleven (11) complaints open being investigated and or reviewed. For licensed clinical social workers in the year 2020, so far investigations has received a total of four (4) new complaints, they have not closed any complaints. Of the four (4) new complaints, one (1) was for action another state, and three (3) for unprofessional conduct. Investigations currently have eleven (11) open complaints regarding licensed clinical social workers that are being reviewed and or investigated.

Office of General Counsel

Mr. Flinchbaugh reminded the board of the conflict of interest policy and its purpose as they had two consent orders to consider during the meeting today. If there is a conflict they are required to let the board know and recuse themselves. He also reminded the board about the open meetings act; any communications between two board members in any type of medium whether it be electronic, or in person if it is about board business it must be properly noticed.

Agreed / Consent Orders / Disciplinary Activity

Mr. Flinchbaugh presented an Agreed Order for **Phyllis M. Bennett, LMSW #10832**

Facts: Respondent advertised as an LCSW and operated a solo-practice while charging and receiving payment from individual clients. The formal discipline order is going to be voluntary surrender of her LMSW license. She will be charged cost not to exceed \$500.00 to be paid within twenty-four months.

Motion was made to accept the citation by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Mr. Flinchbaugh presented a Consent Order for **Pam Wolf, LCSW #3268**

Facts: Respondents license expired May 31, 2014. Respondent advertised as an LCSW until September 2019. Discipline is voluntary surrender of license.

Motion was made to accept the citation by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Childers.

Motion carried. Ms. Williams recused.

Senate Bill 1655 Sunset extension for the Board of Social Work, based on legislation the board has been extended until June 30, 2026.

Rule Activity The chapter re-write for our rules have been sent to the Attorney General's Office. Once approved in the Attorney General's Office, it then goes to the Secretary of State's office who will give us the effective date of the revised rules.

Administration requested Mr. Flinchbaugh possibly drafting a "Stop gap" policy regarding the time/year's period that is allowed in clinical logged hours that changes from six (6) years to eight (8) years and on the percentage of allowed Telehealth supervisory hours to apply until the revised rules go into effect. The board agreed to adopt the language made at rule change, and approved Mr. Flinchbaugh to draft the stop-gap policy on the six (6) to eight (8) year change and to define the percentage on the telehealth allowances. The six (6) to eight (8) year change would be effective immediately February 6, 2020. Ms. Buchanan made motion to accept, seconded by Mr. White. Motion carried.

Administrative Report

Ms. Stacey stated that as of February 4, 2020, there were 581 Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers; 3,006 Licensed Master Social Workers; 267 Licensed Advanced Practice Social Workers; and 2,934 Licensed Clinical Social Workers.

Listed below are license statuses for all professionals regulated by the Board of Social Work from the period reporting from October 24, 2019 through February 4, 2020.

Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers	Licensed Master Social Workers	Licensed Advanced Practice Social workers	Licensed Clinical Social Workers
New Licenses - 7	New Licenses - 138	New Licenses - 2	New Licenses - 83
Renewed - 63	Renewed - 349	Renewed - 44	Renewed - 340
Online - 45	Online 286	Online - 32	Online - 259
Retired License - 1	Retired License - 47	Retired License - 0	Retired License - 16
Expired - 13	Expired - 47	Expired - 2	Expired - 23

Ms. Stacy stated from October 24, 2019 thru February 4, 2020 that one (1) LBSW licensee, forty seven (47) LMSWs, no (0) LAPSW’s and sixteen (16) LCSWs retired their licenses.

Ms. Stacey said from October 24, 2019 thru February 4, 2020 that thirteen (13) LBSWs, forty seven (47) LMSWs, two (2) LAPSW and twenty-three (23) LCSWs license expired.

Ms. Stacey also stated that from October 24, 2019 thru February 6, 2020 there were seven (7) LBSWs licensed; one hundred-thirty eight (138) LMSWs were licensed; two (2) LAPSW was licensed; and eighty-three (83) LCSW’s were licensed.

Dates of the remaining 2020 Social Work Board meetings are:

05/07/2020

08/06/2020

11/05/2020

Ms. Wilkins inquired of the board if they would be interested in a “retreat” similar to the type the medical board had done to help understand the function of the board’s staff in their daily work as related to departmental policies and procedures of the office. Mr. Zylstra requested that Ms. Wilkins send an email when she had the details and information to the board members so they could check their availability in attending.

Application Review

Application submitted for Maya Wallace LMSW applying by reciprocity. The application was brought before the board due to a felony conviction being in record. Mr. Flinchbaugh referred to the Fresh Start Act Public Chapter number 793. The Fresh Start Act factors in the amount of time

that has passed since the offense had occurred, and the type/class of felony it was. If a felony is a type C or D felony the state would have to prove why she should not be licensed, if an A or B felony then the applicant has to prove why she should be licensed. Ms. Wallace had a type D felony, and the date which it had occurred (1998) had been a significant amount of time. Ms. Williams made motion to accept her application for license, Ms. Buchanan seconded. Motion carried.

Application submitted for Stephanie Wright LMSW by reciprocity. Ms. Wright was licensed with her master's degree in social work twenty plus years ago in the state of Virginia as an LSW. She had not taken the required ASWB exam for master level license as required by the board for licensure here. The state of Virginia changed their title of that license last fall (2019) from the LSW to an LMSW license title. Ms. Wright was present to answer any questions the board had, and provided additional license work history information handouts. Motion was made to license Ms. Wright by reciprocity by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Buchanan. Motion carried.

Agreed Citations

The board reviewed an Agreed Citation for **Katherine Cornelius LCSW #6459** who unknowingly worked on an expired license at employment that did require her to be licensed. She paid the agreed citation fine for practicing six (6) months past the 60-day grace period. Submitted reinstatement application, paid \$600.00 fine, reinstatement fees, and continuing education certificates required. Motion to accept the agreement was made by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Mr. White. The motion carried.

The board reviewed an Agreed Citation for **John Earthman LMSW #6681** who was audited and found to be deficient of twenty four (24) total continuing education credits for the 2016 and 2017 calendar year. Mr. Earthman was fined one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per board policy. He paid the citation fine and chose the citation option of retiring the license, with the understanding that if he ever reinstates the license he will have to make-up the deficient CE hours in addition to the reinstatement required hours. Motion to accept the agreement was made by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Childers. The motion carried.

The board reviewed an Agreed Citation for **Katelyn Burton LMSW #9705** who unknowingly worked on an expired license at employment that did require her to be licensed. She paid the agreed citation fine for practicing three (3) months past the 60-day grace period. Submitted reinstatement application, paid \$300.00 fine, reinstatement fees, and continuing education certificates required. Motion to accept the agreement was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Childers. The motion carried.

The board reviewed an Agreed Citation for **Judith Orr LMSW #10545** who unknowingly worked on an expired license at employment that did require her to be licensed. She paid the agreed citation fine for practicing one (1) months past the 60-day grace period. Submitted reinstatement application, paid \$100.00 fine, reinstatement fees, and continuing education certificates required. Motion to accept the agreement was made by Ms. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Buchanan. The motion carried.

Review, approve/deny and ratify new licensure files

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Horton, to approve the following LBSW applicants for licensure:

**Charlene Davis
Blake Patrick Harris
Callie E. Mills**

**Angela Marie Deoach
Cassidi Honer
Carrie Shankles**

The motion carried.

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the following LMSW applicants for licensure:

Ms. Childers recused * / Ms. Anderson recused / Ms. Mallory*****

**Cederick Jerome Adams*
Christina Basaldua
Elizabeth Marie Bauman
Steven Beaty*
Katelyn Bowman
Michelle Rae Brenner
Mitzi M. Breuninger
Carmelita Brooks
Emily C. Brosend
Kristan Buckner
Jill Burbidge
Jason Burger
Caroline Graham Cameron
Todd Caruthers
Kara Duke Coleman
Hubert L. Coombs Jr.
Barbara Rosanne Cross
Victoria Ruth DeCastro
Dashia Drayton
Litaya Dryia
Alexis Duncan
Abigail Ida Durham*
Amanda Nicole Ellis
Kathryn Fey
Rebecca Frazier
Jonathan Gill
Sarah Gorman
Carys Graves**

**Monique Graves*
Kaitlyn Griffith
Brittany Hammers
Lauren M. Harrington
Elizabeth Denise Harris
Kristin Heimpel
Danielle Hein
Chelsea Ailene Hodges
Angelique Roshea Horace
Carlye Hunsucker
Hannah Hytken
Jacqueline R. Jackson
Casey Morgan James*
Kimberly Johnston
Autumn Nycole Juday
Morgan Keith
Erin Elizabeth Kelly
Randi L. Kersey**
Hannah Rene Klein*
Jennifer Langs
Ashley Larkin*
Tracy Lawrence*
Allyson Elizabeth Lee
Kendra Lee*
Markesha Joy Lucas
Brandy Williams Lucious
Laura Nicole Lukac
Lauren Luther**

Hannah Elizabeth Mangrum*
Hannah Morgan Martin
Kayla Renee Martin
Ja-Kay L Matheny Sr.
Terrian Matthews
Rheann Maxwell
Amanda McClellan
Katrice L. Miller
Kimberly Larnell Milligan
Rebecca Leigh Milner
Samantha A. Mitchell
Caitlynn Momon
Christina Moore
Erin Elizabeth Mourier
Caitlin B Murray
Allison J. Nativo
Micah O'Dell
Chinelo Obi***
John Wesley Page*
Paris Monique Palmer
Kenneth Dewayne Perry
Amanda Lee Peshock
Kaleigh Pica
Laura Pulley
Emily Caroline Rector
April Rentzsch
Kayce Resha*
Alisa Ann Reynolds
Stefanie Louise Roberts
Dina W. Rogers
Jennifer Nicole Roque-Pichardo
Linda Norman Rowland
Shonda L. Rowe
Caroline Saunders Russe

Wesley Tyler Sanders*
Chesney Denice Shand
Shelby Shaw
Jarvette Jeanene Shipp*/**
Kissa Shugars
Lauren Taylor Shuler*
Arielle Silverman
Ashley Smith
Victoria Diane Smith
Ross Sparboe
Dr. Christina Alease Spivey
Leaanna Jayne Spurling*
Ashley Warren Stanford
Britton Stockdale
Lindsay C. Swany
Kyle S. Taggart
Angela Patricia Tamayo
Madison Elaine Taylor
Michelle Y. Tennyson
Briel Thompson
Heather Brooke Tyler
Emily Ulma
Maria-Salome Velez
Yessenia Marie Velez Rivera
Shannon Petty Walls
Jacqueline Leigh Watkins
Brittany Watson
Kathryn Weber
Monica Elena Weiss-Sharp**
Haley Whetstone
Rachel J Wiskind
Allyson Witt
Pamela Madison Wright
Ashley Yeager

The motion carried.

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the following LAPSW applicant for licensure:

Caitlin A. Wright

The motion carried.

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the following LCSW applicants for licensure:

Ms. Childers recused * / Ms. Anderson recused **

**Douglas M. Aitken
Deborah Elaine Allcock
Nicole Ann Allen
Rachel Janine Baker
Beth Evelyn Barber
Jessica Bowen
Aaron S. Brakhane
Courtney Johnson Brown
Jennifer Buckner
Tianna Rene Burroughs
Corrie Cecil
Andrew P. Chapman
Cara Marie Clark
Kassie Claughton
Timothy A. Clouse
Laurie Conaty
Ellen Elizabeth Crane
Gina Lynn Crean
Matthew S. Crescenzi
Shana J. Crispin
Jody Cross
David Lowell Crouch
Bailey Curtis
Hollie Davenport
Claire C. Depriest
Catherine Ellis
Amanda L. Furguson
Sarah Francis
Sarah E. Gaffey
Taylor A. Guatier*
Tabitha Harper
Matthew Harvey
Stephanie N. Hayslett
Erica Hazlehurst*
April D. Hibdon
Claudia Hirsemann
Winzetta L. Jenkins**

**Stacy Jones*
Shanna R. Kraai*
Tajsheena Leggs
Wendy Lucker
Catherine Lee Lynch
Angela D. McClasland
Kayla Mcelroy
Cristina Moorehead
Lauren M. Mourier
Dianna M. Neal
Jamie Lea Nellans
Allison A. Offutt*
Marguerite A. Parris
Rebecca R. Peoples
Maria Randall
Gayle R. Resneck
Kristina Roeber
Joanna K. Rosenblum
Christopher Michael Ross
Cynthia Runions
Audrey Lynn Rush
Laken Ann Schang
Jessica N. Schwerin Danner
Shannon E. Sea
Bridgette L. Spann Edwards
Carolyn Claire Spotts
Kim Marie Sprague
Mary Ashley Nicole Stormes
Monica Flynn Urness
Jodana Michelle Varilek
Chesney Ward
Jerry Watson**
Roberta Wilbanks
Meredith L. Wilson
Carrisa Woods
Taylor Worley
Charissa L. Youssi
Kelly F. Zachary**

The motion carried

Approve LCSW applicants to sit for written exam

Upon review of the initially approved, Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the following LCSW applicants to sit for the written exam.

Ms. Childers recused* / Ms. Mallory recused**

Brittany Adams*
Effie Alford
Chelsea Atzinger
Tangela Babb
Jessica Barron
Jina Boze
Nakicia Brown-Smith
Tonya Caffey
Katherine Cannon
Katie Carter
Indienne Castillo**
Jinger Cathey
Bradley Clayton
Terese Coleman-Moore
Stephanie Coley
Candace-Tara Cook
Ann Darby
Beverly Davis
Ashley Dortch
Elissa Field
Laura Fieser
Amy Filder
Debra Flowers
Erika Fugere
Lindsey Gafford

Ailie Green
Daniel Griggs*
Leslie Halpern
Allison Knack
Leslie Lindsey
Stephanie Livesay*/**
Anita Martin*
Carol Masters
Aubrey McMillian
Joyre Montgomery
Maryam Moosa-Williams
Makenzie Parks
Jennifer Pastusic
Meyoshia Powell
Brittany Ragin
Lauren Reed
Deborah Reilly
Dominique Secherest
Amber Smith
Nacole Smith
Samuel Steinbruegge
Rachel Tinaya
Lorraine Wiseman
Kathryn Yaffee

The Motion Carried

Approve/deny reinstatement applications.

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Williams, to approve the following LBSW reinstated license:

Kelvin Vallier

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Watson, to approve the following LMSW reinstated license:

Shena L. Branley
Lindsay Bridges
Candice Hadley
Richard H. Hall

Catherine Hebert
Ashley R. Lucas
Anthony R. Miller
Judith Orr

Donna D. Parrish
Rebecca Sage
Katelyn Shanklin
Marion E. Tant-Rieger

Charissa Virgin
Kynetta L. Williams

The motion carried.

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Watson, to approve the following **LAPSW** reinstated license:

Julie G. Mason

Upon review Ms. Buchanan made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mallory, to approve the following **LCSW** reinstated license:

Katherine M. Cornelius
Carolyn J. Fitzsimmons
Anna W. Juneau
Eva M. Krug

Robert P. Landrigan
Mitzi S. McBride
Melodie Brown Parsons
Vickie Harris Startup

The motion carried.

Correspondence:

The board received letters from **Holly Nisley and Rhonda Walker** requesting licensure in Tennessee as an LMSW without sitting for the ASWB's master level exam. Ms. Nisley is currently working on gaining her clinical contact hours toward licensure as an LCSW, but was allowed in her current state to take the clinical exam prior to completing her hours, and that her clinical license would be granted when the required hours were complete. Because she hasn't completed her clinical contact hours she would need to be licensed here in Tennessee as an LMSW which requires taking the ASWB master's exam. Ms. Nisley is requesting that she use her ASWB clinical score to receive LMSW licensure here, then when the required hours have been completed she would not have to re-sit for the clinical exam. She would only have to apply, and submit her clinical hours/logs to be approved to receive licensure as an LCSW here.

The board is of the opinion that the licensing exams are tailored to level of licensure and therefore are not interchangeable. The LMSW and LCSW exams are not interchangeable because they were designed for different levels of practice. Mr. Flinchbaugh urged the board to consider the application/s on an individual basis as some states may not offer an LMSW license, therefore they could not be approved to take a masters level exam. Referencing statute *63-23-111 The board may, at its discretion, grant a social worker license without examination, to any person residing or employed in the state who has not previously failed the examination given by the board and who at the time of application is licensed by another state whose standards, in the opinion of the board, are as stringent as those required by this chapter.*

The board concluded that it should be a case by case decision after the board receives a full application. With considerations what particular level of exam was offered; and if they chose not to take the exam or if that level of exam was not available in their state at the time they were licensed.

Ms. Franklin with the TN NASW chapter reiterated that although some states have allowed the applicant to sit for the clinical exam prior to completing the hours, the ASWB was moving toward policies that would not allow the applicant to sit for the clinical exam until they've completed the required hours for clinical license. She also stated that the different level exams were designed for different purposes.

Discussion

The upcoming ASWB Spring Education Meeting to be held in Chicago, Illinois, April 23-25, 2020 was brought before the board to inquire who would like to attend. The board may send three board members, and unit director. Ms. Buchanan, Ms. Watson, and Ms. Anderson from the board and Ms. Wilkins board director indicated they would like to attend.

The board members were told that Ms. Stacey would begin the process of submitting the justification for the conference and to wait before bookings/reservations until she received the approval.

The board was also asked if they wanted to sponsor the NASW Day on the Hill held at War Memorial Auditorium at Legislative Plaza on March 24, 2020. Ms. Stacey and Ms. Wilkins would be there to represent the Board of Social Work and provide information to students for licensure. Ms. Stacey requested the board's approval of the same level of sponsorship as they had done in 2019. ASWB had a sponsorship they offered exclusively to our state board of \$1000.00 which included our lunch, our set-up table and a half page ad in the program booklet. Ms. Buchanan mad motion to accept the sponsorship, Ms. Mallory seconded. Motion carried.

10:55 AM - Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Buchanan, seconded by Ms. Childers.

Motion to approve the February minutes with one correction noted was made by Ms. Buchanan, motion was seconded by Ms. Mallory. Motion carried. May 7, 2020