



Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure Meeting

Thursday, August 22, 2024

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ashley Childers, Board President, on Thursday, August 22, 2024.

Board members present: Ashley Childers, LCSW, Board President
Caitlin Wright, LAPSW
Angela DeLoach, LMSW
Jennifer Williams, LAPSW
Robert Zylstra, LCSW
Tara Watson, LCSW
Kenya Anderson, LMSW
Colleen Howe, Citizen Member

Board member(s) absent: Ann-Marie Buchanan, LMSW
Kimberly Mallory, LAPSW

Staff present: Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel
Candyce Wilson, Board Director
Tabatha East, Board Administrative Director
Courtney Reimers, Board Administrator
Jessica Jones, Board Administrator

UPDATE FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

Ms. Olivia Johnson, liaison for the Legislative Office, reported the following update on the 2024 Legislative Session:

PC. 557 SB2074/HB1678

As enacted, transfers certain duties and authority regarding data reported by health facilities from the executive director of the health facilities commission to the department; requires licensed birthing centers to report claims data on discharges to the department at least quarterly; removes requirement that an owner of a hospital that closes must submit to the department a report of the statistical particulars relative to the hospital's patients for the fiscal year.

PC. 561 SB2075/HB1679

As enacted, generally prohibits a licensed dentist from allowing, under general supervision, more than three dental hygienists to work at any one time; authorizes a dentist to supervise, under direct supervision, no more than five dental hygienists while the dentist and each hygienist are providing dental services on a volunteer basis through a nonprofit provider of free mobile clinics; authorizes a dentist to supervise, under general supervision, no more than five dental hygienists if the dentist and dental hygienists work for the department of health, a county or metropolitan health department, or an entity that participates in the state safety net program for the uninsured.

PC. 761 SB2482/HB2773

As enacted, enacts the "Cassie Wright Act," which makes changes to law relative to a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian having access to certain medical information of their unemancipated minor. Requires a health care professional who reports a threat of bodily harm or threat of committing suicide, by a service recipient who is an unemancipated minor, to law enforcement must also report to the unemancipated minors parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian. Requires access to an unemancipated minors prescription records unless the provider is required to report abuse or access to this information is reasonably likely to endanger the life or physical safety of the minor.

PC. 783 SB1673/HB1625

As enacted, requires a qualified mental health professional or behavior analyst to warn or protect an identified victim or group of people when the professional or analyst determines that a service recipient has communicated an intent for actual threat of bodily harm; requires the professional or behavior analyst to report such threat; provides immunity from civil, criminal, and regulatory liability for a professional or analyst who takes reasonable action to warn or protect identified victims or groups and to report such threat.

PC. 831 SB1766/HB1882

As enacted, requires a healthcare provider to provide to a patient or the patient's authorized representative a full copy of the patient's medical records within 10 working days of receipt of a written request by the patient or representative, instead of providing a full copy or a summary of the records; requires a healthcare provider to provide to a principal or an attorney in fact acting pursuant to a durable power of attorney for health care a full copy of the principal's medical records within 10 working days of receipt of a written request by the principal or attorney in fact, instead of providing a full copy or a summary of the records.

PC. 893 SB1720/HB2451

As enacted, requires certain information to be included in a healthcare practitioner advertisement. A practitioner may only advertise the profession, title, or designation associated with the educational degree of the practitioner.

PC. 944 SB2588/HB2097

As enacted, requires state regulatory boards within the department of commerce and insurance and state health related boards within the department of health to issue advisory opinions upon request.

PC. 1027 SB1881/HB2857

As enacted, removes from the definition of "provider-based telemedicine" the requirement that the healthcare service provider or the provider's practice group or healthcare system have an established provider-patient relationship that is documented by an in-person encounter within 16 months prior to the interactive visit.

PC. 1030 SB1963/HB2176

As enacted, permits a court to award the reasonable court costs and attorney's fees to a petitioner successfully proving that a governing body knowingly and willfully violated the public meetings laws in this state.

PC. 1041 SB2134/HB2405

As enacted, enacts the Social Work Licensure Compact.

PC. 1043 SB2151/HB2861

As enacted, clarifies that a healthcare practitioner shall not coerce a person, including a person who has legal authority to make healthcare decisions for a child, to consent to a vaccination; Mislead or misrepresent that a vaccination is required by state law, when state law provides an exemption; or (3) Mislead or misrepresent that a newborn screening test is required by state law, when state law does not require such screening without providing an exemption to such requirement.

PC. 1061 SB2749/HB2936

As enacted, enacts the "Families' Rights and Responsibilities Act." This act outlines that parental consent must be given to a healthcare provider to render certain treatment or services unless under certain circumstances such as emergency medical or surgical treatment or if blanket consent has been given.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Katherine Trawick, the Board's Advisory Attorney, reviewed the Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

PC. 924

Ms. Trawick reviewed Public Chapter 924 regarding the Board's ability to not openly discuss sensitive matters during the open meeting.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Melanie Madron - is an applicant for initial LMSW licensure by Examination. Ms. Madron is appearing before the Board due to indications on her criminal background check. The Board reviewed her documents, statement and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to allow the applicant to be approved to take the LMSW licensure exam. Ms. Caitlin Wright seconded the motion, and it passed.

Emily Miller - Ms. Miller is an applicant for initial LCSW by Exam. Ms. Miller is appearing before the Board to request that clinical supervision hours obtained under supervisor Aubrey McMillan be honored. Ms. McMillan wrote to the board on April 14, 2024, indicating ethical concerns regarding supervision hours and requested that the hours obtained under her supervision be removed. The applicants file includes correspondence from Ms. McMillan, as well as several character reference letters from Emily's additional supervision team. The file has been reviewed by our consultant and Ms. Miller's file is complete minus the hours that Ms. McMillan has requested be removed. The Board discussed the matter regarding the hours with Ms. McMillan and she confirmed the hours did in fact occur. Ms. Caitlin Wright motioned to approve for Ms. Miller to sit for the exam. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

The Board led a discussion on proper ways to modify supervision verification forms. Supervisors and applicants are instructed to not use white out on forms.

Keli Plaisance - Ms. Plaisance is appearing before the Board due to indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Plaisance is an applicant for initial LMSW by exam. The Board reviewed Ms. Plaisance's information that was provided and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to allow Ms. Plaisance to sit for the exam. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Heather Shipley - Ms. Shipley is appearing before the Board due to answering "Yes" to "Are you currently participating in a supervised rehabilitation program or professional assistance program that monitors you to assure you do not consume alcohol and/or engage in the illegal use of illicit or controlled substances?", as well as indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Shipley is an applicant for initial LMSW by exam. The Board reviewed the information that was provided regarding these matters. Ms. Kenya Anderson motioned to approve for Ms. Shipley to sit for the exam. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion, and it passed.

Monica Tucker - Ms. Tucker is appearing before the Board due to indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Tucker is an applicant for initial LMSW by exam. The Board reviewed Ms. Tucker's information. Ms. Kenya Anderson motioned to approve for Ms. Tucker to take the exam. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Georgiana Giampietro - Ms. Giampietro is an applicant looking to reactivate her retired LMSW license. Ms. Giampietro appeared before the Board during the May 2024 meeting due to indications on her criminal background check and was requested to reappear during the August meeting to provide supplemental information. The Board reviewed the documentation. Ms. Caitlin Wright motioned to reinstate Ms. Giampietro's license for a 12-month probationary period with the condition of continued treatment and compliance with terms. Ms. Kenya Anderson seconded the motion. The Board was not in agreement regarding the motion. A roll call vote was held, Ms. Jennifer Williams voted yes, Ms. Caitlin Wright voted yes, Mr. Robert Zylstra voted yes, Ms. Colleen Howe voted no, Ms. Kenya Anderson voted yes, Dr. Ashley Childers voted yes, Ms. Tara Watson voted yes, Ms. Angela DeLoach voted no. There were 6 in favor, and 2 opposed, and it passed. Ms. Katherine Trawick stated she will draft the conditional license order and submit to the Board President, Dr. Ashley Childers for her signature and then will forward to Ms. Giampietro's attorney.

Krystal Dorsey - Ms. Dorsey is appearing before the Board via telephone due to having never taken the ASWB exam as it is not required for Illinois. Ms. Dorsey is an applicant for LMSW by Reciprocity. The Board reviewed Ms. Dorsey's information. As of January 1st, 2021, the state of Illinois stopped requiring the ASWB exam. The Board made Ms. Dorsey aware of the different state licensure requirements and reviewed her options with her. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned that due to different state licensing requirements to not grant Ms. Dorsey reciprocity and to allow her to withdraw her application, stating the fee will transfer, but only up to one year from today, 8/22/24; with the option expiring on 8/22/25. This will allow the applicant to apply initial by exam with the fees already paid. Ms. Caitlin Wright seconded the motion. For the record the Board asked Ms. Dorsey, "Ms. Dorsey, would you like to withdraw your application via Reciprocity?" Ms. Dorsey replied, "Yes". The motion passed with all in favor.

Anita Holmes - Ms. Holmes is appearing before the Board via telephone due to a request to use her clinical experience as an LCSW in lieu of having taken the ASWB exam. Ms. Holmes is an applicant for LCSW by Reciprocity. California does not require the ASWB exam to obtain an LCSW license, but they do require a state exam which has been deemed more stringent. Ms. Holmes has practiced as an LCSW in CA for 13 years. Ms. Holmes is moving to TN and wishes to continue practicing as an LCSW. We have received Ms. Holmes TN address. The Board reviewed the documentation provided for Ms. Holmes.

Ms. Holmes stated she is moving to Tennessee in September of 2024. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to accept the application via Reciprocity. Ms. Caitlin Wright seconded the motion, and it passed.

Kyla Jones - Ms. Jones is appearing before the Board via telephone due to indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Jones is an applicant for initial LMSW by exam. The Board reviewed the information that was provided for Ms. Jones. Ms. Jones stated to the Board that she currently works at an addiction fellowship. Ms. Kenya Anderson motioned to approve for Ms. Jones to sit for the exam. Ms. Angela DeLoach seconded the motion, and it passed.

Gineth Nelson - Ms. Nelson is appearing before the Board via telephone. Ms. Nelson initially applied via reciprocity but did not meet the requirements due to the TN address rule change and switched to application by exam. Ms. Nelson has been practicing for 7 years in NY as an LCSW. Ms. Nelson has taken and passed the ASWB Clinical exam and we have record of the passing score. She is unable to obtain proof of her clinical hours. Ms. Nelson is requesting the documentation be waived in order to be approved. The Board made Ms. Nelson aware the requested information is to be received no later than 4/17/25, allowing the applicant 90-days to provide the required information. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to extend Ms. Nelson's application process by 90 days, until the November 22nd, 2024, Board Meeting. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Deanna Sliger-Oslund - Ms. Sliger-Oslund is appearing before the Board via telephone due to indications on her Criminal Background Check. Ms. Sliger-Oslund is an applicant for initial LMSW by exam. The Board reviewed the documentation provided. Ms. Katherine Trawick brought to light the positive letter from the District Attorney on Ms. Sliger-Oslund's behalf. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to accept the application and allow Ms. Sliger-Oslund to sit for the exam. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion, and it passed.

Mina Massey - Ms. Massey is appearing before the Board via telephone for Board consideration on her 2-year period supervision. Previously, Ms. Massey had been informed any hours completed prior to initial LMSW licensure could not be counted. At this time, Ms. Massey completed the additional clinical hours and supervision as well as group supervision hours required. The Board reviewed the information provided for Ms. Massey. January 20, 2025, is the 2-year mark in which she then becomes eligible to apply for LCSW licensure and take the exam. Ms. Angela DeLoach motioned to allow Ms. Massey to sit for the exam due to administrative error and having the hours required. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Tashanna Shilling - Ms. Shilling is appearing before the Board via telephone to request an extension/waiver to complete continuing education hours required for renewal due to undue hardship. The extension request is for CE Cycle: Jan 2022-Dec 2023 for license renewal date of 05/30/2024. Ms. Shilling's extension request was received by the Administrative Office on 05/14/2024. The Board reviewed the documentation provided for Ms. Shilling. Ms. Shilling stated she continued to get CE's online where there was virtual opportunity for engagement. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to allow Ms. Shilling to get 1.5 hours in CEs in ethics by the end of this 2024 calendar year. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the May 2, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Ms. Jennifer Williams motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion, and it passed.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

The Office of Investigations Intake Coordinator, Chad Barclay, presented the current report to the board.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed the statistical licensing report. Administration Office staff changes were also shared with the board.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

The Boards Attorney, Ms. Trawick, presented the report to the board. The updated public comment policy was gone over as well, where public comments must be brought to the board's attention 10 days before the Board.

CORRESPONDENCE

Cheryl Beshears - Ms. Beshears is appearing to request a six-month exam extension for her LCSW exam. The administrative office received the request for extension on May 24, 2024. Applicant was approved to sit for the clinical exam on 06/02/2023. Expiration to pass exam was 06/02/2024. Due to the sensitive nature, this applicant was not required to appear in person but the Board had all of the information necessary to review and properly consider. The Board reviewed the documentation provided regarding Ms. Beshears. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to grant the 6-month extension from today's date, 8/22/24. Expiring 2/22/25. Ms. Kenya Anderson seconded the motion and it passed.

Karolin Davis - Ms. Davis is appearing to the Board via telephone due to requesting to be grandfathered in as an LCSW or LAPSW by experience. Ms. Davis has practiced as an LMSW for 30 years. Ms. Davis was licensed in NY as a CSW in 1996, an LMSW in NY in 2004 and in TN as an LMSW in 2008. Ms. Davis has indicated that she is unable to obtain any records due to the NY records office not retaining records from that time. Ms. Davis does not have proof of the clinical ASWB score or documentation of clinical hours acquired to obtain an LCSW in NY. Ms. Davis currently resides in TN. The Board reviewed the information provided for Ms. Davis. Due to TCA 63-23-103(b), the board recommends Ms. Davis apply for LCSW by exam. Proof of 3,000 hours and passing the ASWB examination will be required to obtain licensure in TN.

Ratification of New Licensees

The Board reviewed the newly licensed and reinstated licensees since the last Board meeting. Ms. Jennifer Williams motioned to ratify all names on the list. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion and it passed.

Compact Commissioner Appointed

The Board is required to appoint a Commissioner for the Social Work Compact to speak on their behalf. Ms. Jennifer Williams motioned to appoint Ms. Tara Watson as the Commissioner, and for Dr. Ashley Childers to be the back-up Commissioner. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion, and it passed.

Update from Karen Franklin, NASW Executive Director

Ms. Franklin notified the Board of some staff changes at NASW. Ms. Franklin also discussed the log form required for applicants, to which the Board stated we would circle back on that matter.

Conference Request

Ms. Anderson motioned to approve at least two board members to attend the ASWB October 3-5, 2024 Conference, where there is a new board member training to be held. Ms. Williams seconded the motion, and it passed.

Supervision Reporting

Ms. Watson will work on creating a instruction sheet for the supervision forms to make it more clear on proper reporting of direct and non-direct/indirect hours.

Private Practice Policy

This discussion will be tabled.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

The meeting adjourned at 3:47pm, CT.



Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure Meeting

Friday, August 23, 2024

MINUTES

Day two of the Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure was called to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ashley Childers, Board President, on Friday, August 23, 2024.

Board members present:	Ashley Childers, LCSW, Board President Angela DeLoach, LMSW Jennifer Williams, LAPSW Tara Watson, LCSW Kenya Anderson, LMSW Colleen Howe, Citizen Member
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Board member(s) absent:	Ann-Marie Buchanan, LMSW Kimberly Mallory, LAPSW Caitlin Wright, LAPSW
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Robert Zylstra, LCSW

Staff present:

Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel
Candyce Wilson, Board Director

The Board met to discuss rule revisions for Board Rule Chapter 1365-01.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Asynchronous learning.
2. Clinical Private Practice.
3. Different types of supervision for LMSW's.
4. Social Work compact does not have LAPSW avenue.
5. Changes were made to remove duplicative language that is found in the statute.
6. Discussion on allowing "-s" after the LAPSW and LCSW licensure levels for those providing supervision.

The Board will meet again on two different dates in January 2025 to continue making rule revisions.

The meeting adjourned.