



Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2024

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure was called to order at 9:15 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ashley Childers, Board President on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Board members present: Ashley Childers, LCSW, Board President
Caitlin Wright, LAPSW
Angela DeLoach, LBSW
Jennifer Williams, LAPSW
Robert Zylstra, LCSW
Tara Watson, LCSW

Board member(s) absent: Karen Armstrong, Consumer Member
Kenya Anderson, LMSW
Ann-Marie Buchanan, LMSW
Kimberly Mallory, LAPSW

Staff present: Candyce Wilson, Board Director
Katherine Trawick, JD, General Counsel
Bruce Dillard, Board Administrator

INTRODUCTIONS

Each Board Member and Staff member went around the room and introduced themselves.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

Ms. Katherine Trawick, Board Attorney, reviewed the Boards conflict of interest policy.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Robert Zylstra nominated Ms. Ashley Childers to remain as Board Chair, and Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded. Ms. Tara Watson nominated Ms. Ann-Marie Buchanan to remain as Board Secretary, and Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded. A vote was called, and Ms. Ashley Childers was unanimously chosen as Board Chair, and Ms. Ann-Marie Buchanan was unanimously chosen as Board Secretary.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Georgiana Giampietro - is an applicant looking to reactivate her retired LMSW license. Ms. Giampietro appeared before the Board due to indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Giampietro provided a written explanation and requested documents. The Board reviewed the application materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned that the applicant must submit additional information on official documentation for the board to review at the August 2024 meeting. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Alyssa Lytle - is an applicant working towards her LCSW license by exam. Ms. Lytle appeared before the Board to explain a problem with her current supervision. Ms. Lytle provided a written explanation as well as requested documents. The Board reviewed the submitted materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. The board advised the applicant start her hours over in order to obtain her necessary hours at the 1 to 30 ratio.

Christina Shelley - is an applicant for initial LCSW licensure by exam. Ms. Shelley appeared before the Board due to her application response to answering "Yes" regarding having any psychological limitations or physical impairments caused by a medical condition. Ms. Shelley provided a written explanation as well as a note from her healthcare provider. The Board reviewed the application materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to approve the applicant to take the exam, with the condition of once she has passed the exam, she would return before the board once more to determine if there needed to be any further requirements. Ms. Ashley Childers seconded the motion and it passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the November 30, 2023 and February 1, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Ms. Jennifer Williams motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Robert Zylstra seconded the motion and the motion passed.

OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS REPORT

The Office of Investigations Intake Coordinator presented the report to the board.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Fiscal Director presented the financial report to the board.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed the statistical licensing report. Administration Office staff changes were also shared with the board. Additionally, the TN Law and Licensure supervisor CE requirements were discussed and clarified.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

The Board Advising Attorney 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:

Massey, Mina - is an applicant working towards her LCSW license by exam. Ms. Massey appeared before the Board to explain an issue with her supervision start date. Ms. Massey provided a written explanation as well as requested documents. The Board reviewed the submitted materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. The board advised the applicant would not be able to count any supervision hours that were obtained before she was officially licensed as an LMSW. No motion was made as this decision was already stated in the rules.

VHA National Social Work Program – A document was submitted regarding an inquiry on Narcan/Naloxone carry and administrator authority for social work licensees. The board members reviewed the submitted document and decided to complete the form by submitting an additional document to clarify their response.

CORRESPONDENCE (CONT.):

Chekanda Alexander - is an applicant for initial LMSW licensure by exam. Ms. Alexander appeared before the Board due to indications on her criminal background check. Ms. Alexander provided a written explanation and requested documents. The Board reviewed the application materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Tara Watson motioned to approve the applicant to take the exam. Ms. Caitlyn Wright seconded the motion and it passed.

Jamie McAfee - is an applicant requesting an extension for how long she is allowed to take the exam. Ms. McAfee appeared before the Board requesting an extension due to extraordinary circumstances. Ms. McAfee provided a written explanation and requested documents. The Board reviewed the application materials. Ms. Caitlyn Wright motioned to permit a 6-month extension to take the exam, conditional upon receiving documentation of her physical health issue within 30 days. Ms. Angela DeLoach seconded the motion and it passed.

Discuss and consider exceptions for requiring TN Law and Licensure CE for out of state applicants:

The board discussed the options for the applicants that do not qualify by reciprocity and then choose to apply by exam. The intention was to hold out of state applicants to the same standards as applicants in the state. Trainings and Jurisprudence exams were considered. Ultimately, the consultant would look to make sure that the applicant's supervisor has been an LCSW for at least three years and they have met the supervision requirements set by the state they are operating out of.

Sonya Johnson - is an applicant requesting an extension for how long she is allowed to take the exam. Ms. Johnson appeared before the Board requesting an extension due to extraordinary circumstances. Ms. Johnson provided a written explanation and requested documents. The Board reviewed the application materials. Ms. Caitlyn Wright motioned to permit a 6-month extension to take the exam, Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Ratification of New Licensees

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

Update from Karen Franklin, NASW Executive Director

Ms. Franklin let the board know that as of the meeting, 10 states have currently approved the Social Work Compact. For TN, the House and the Senate have approved the compact, and it's currently with the Governor. If it gets approved, it will still take 1 to 2 years for any major changes to be put into effect. Ms. Franklin also notified the board of some staff changes at NASW.

Supervision Plan

The board discussed the different requirements and specifics of the supervision plan, for its eventual implementation. Although it is not yet required or in effect, the board discussed the various implementations that might help applicants in the future. Between the current meeting and next, more details would be specified and drafted for discussion at the August 2024 meeting.

Presentation of Disciplinary Orders

Consent Orders

Celesta Young – Ms. Trawick presented the situation to the board. The Board then reviewed the consent order materials and discussed the matter amongst one another. Ms. Caitlyn Wright motioned to approve the consent order. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Stephanie Purdue – Ms. Trawick presented the situation to the board. The Board then reviewed the consent order materials and discussed the matter amongst one another. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to approve the consent order. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

India Johnson – Ms. Trawick presented the situation to the board. The Board then reviewed the consent order materials and discussed the matter amongst one another. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to approve the consent order. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Orders of Compliance

India Johnson – Ms. Trawick presented the situation to the board. The Board then reviewed the Order of Compliance and discussed the matter amongst one another. Ms. Jennifer Williams motioned to approve the order of Compliance. Ms. Tara Watson seconded the motion and it passed.

Peggy Randolph – Ms. Trawick presented the situation to the board. The Board then reviewed the Order of Compliance and discussed the matter amongst one another. Ms. Caitlyn Wright motioned to approve the order of Compliance. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Open Board Position:

The board advertised that it is currently looking for a new Consumer member to sit on the board. A consumer member can be anyone who's received social work services in the past.

There were no further public comments or calls.

The meeting adjourned at 2:16pm CT.