



Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure Meeting

Friday, June 2, 2023

MINUTES

The Board meeting of the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Licensure was called to order at 9:08 a.m. in the Iris Room, Ground Floor, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee 37243 by Ashley Childers, Board President on Friday, June 2, 2023.

Board members present: Ashley Childers, LCSW, Board President
Kenya Anderson, LMSW
Caitlin Wright, LAPSW
Angela DeLoach, LBSW
Jennifer Williams, LAPSW
Robert Zylstra, LCSW

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

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY

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

ASWB PRESENTATION

Stacy Hardy-Chandler, ASWB CEO and Dale Atkinson, ASWB legal counsel appeared before the Board to discuss updates from the ASWB. This presentation provided an in-depth look at the social work licensure examination. The examination is designed to measure competency and there are measures taken to ensure the exam is reliable, valid, and defensible. In the future there is a possibility for the examination to be offered remotely so long as the integrity of the exam remains.

APPLICANT INTERVIEWS

Caitlin Bottcher – is an applicant for LMSW licensure by reciprocity. Ms. Bottcher cannot provide proof of passing an ASWB examination. Ms. Bottcher is licensed in IL as an LSW, which did not require an ASWB examination. The Board determined their requirements for licensure are not as stringent as the requirements in IL. With a consensus that the application would not be approved if the Board voted, Ms. Bottcher was offered the option to withdraw her application and she did so accordingly.

Sara Harker – is an applicant for initial LMSW licensure by examination. Ms. Harker appeared before the Board due to responding affirmatively on the application to having ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. Ms. Harker provided a written explanation and supporting documentation regarding her prior misdemeanors. The Board reviewed the application materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Harker informed the Board she has been in recovery since December 2018. Mr. Robert Zylstra motioned to approve the applicant for licensure. Ms. Jennifer Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Edward Chubb – Mr. Chubb is an applicant for initial LMSW licensure by examination. Mr. Chubb appeared before the Board due to responding affirmatively on the application to having ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. Mr. Chubb provided a written explanation and supporting documentation regarding his prior convictions which were older than ten years. The Board reviewed the application materials and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Kenya Anderson motioned to approve the applicant for licensure. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Francis Sutton – Mr. Sutton is an applicant for initial LMSW licensure by examination. Mr. Sutton answered affirmatively on the application regarding currently having physical or psychological limitations or impairments caused by an existing medical condition which are reduced or ameliorated by ongoing treatment or monitoring. Mr. Sutton provided a letter of explanation and a letter of support from an LCSW. The applicant reviewed the information and discussed the matter with the applicant. Ms. Anderson motioned to approve the applicant for licensure. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Brandy Krueg – Ms. Krueg is an applicant for LCSW licensure by reciprocity. She appeared before the Board due to not having taken and passed the ASWB examination. Ms. Krueg did take and pass the California state examination. Mr. Zylstra motioned to approve the applicant for licensure. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Tiffany Harris – Ms. Harris is an applicant for LBSW licensure by reciprocity. She holds an IL LSW license by non-examination effective December 8, 2022. Additionally, she held a TN LBSW license by grandfather on December 7, 2020 that expired December 31, 2014. Due to that license being expired for greater than five years, her reapplication is treated as a new application per Board rules. Ms. Harris has taken the ASWB examination two times and failed each time. Mr. Zylstra stated failure to pass the ASWB examination means that her licensure in IL is not equivalent. The Board offered the applicant the option to withdraw her application. Ms. Harris opted to withdraw her application.

Jacqueline Burns – Ms. Burns is an applicant for LMSW licensure by exam. Ms. Burns appeared before the Board due to responding affirmatively on the application to having ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor. Ms. Burns provided a written explanation and supporting documentation. Ms. Burns reports the last event occurred in 2015 for a failure to appear in court and the incident prior was in 2009. Since June 2015, the applicant reports being in recovery and involvement in a 12-step recovery plan, that she has a sponsor and has furthered her education since then. Mr. Zylstra motioned to approve the applicant for licensure. Ms. Wright seconded the motion and it passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the February 23, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Ms. Williams motioned to approve the minutes with corrections noted. Ms. DeLoach seconded the motion and the motion passed.

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. Roger Knowlton presented the current complaints report for the Board. The Board had no questions.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REPORT

The Board reviewed the statistical licensing report.

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Ms. Trawick gave the report from the Office of General Counsel which included the following updates:

1. She provided a review of the open meetings act.
2. As of May 12, 2023, there were cases open against seven of the Board's licensees.
3. The office has one case set for trial for the next Board meetings.
4. There are twenty of these Boards licensees currently being monitored.
 - a. The total number on reprimand is 3 with terms.
 - b. The total number on probation is 10 with terms.
 - c. The total number on suspension is 6 with terms.
 - d. The total number with a revoked or surrendered license is 1.

CONDUCT NEW BUSINESS

Correspondence

The Board reviewed and discussed an anonymous inquiry. The inquiry asked the Board if, as an LMSW, one can have their clients pay a second provider and through a 1099 have that provider reimburse them a fee. It was additionally noted that other colleagues are using this type of payment system. The Board heavily discussed the limitations of practice for an LMSW. Whereas, an LMSW cannot practice independently and having a 1099 would be identifying oneself as an independent contractor. An LMSW with a 1099 would need to be earning an hourly wage and not be paid per client.

Ratification of New Licensees

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

Application Review Consultant

The Board discussed the need for certain complete applications to be reviewed in a timely manner by a consultant of the Board. Ms. Tara Watson has informed Ms. Wilson and Dr. Childers that she is willing to act as the consultant application reviewer under the Delegated Authority contract which permits reimbursement. Mr. Zylstra motioned to approve Ms. Watson as the consultant reviewer and authorize reimbursements for this service. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion and it passed.

Continuing Education Policy

The Board reviewed and considered the new continuing education policy which further explains that interactive/live web- based continuing education counts as in-person hours. Mr. Zylstra motioned to adopt the policy. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Upcoming Conference Requests

Ms. Anderson motioned to send Ms. Childers as the delegate, one attorney and one staff member. Ms. Anderson to act as the alternate delegate if Ms. Childers cannot attend. Mr. Zylstra seconded the motion and it passed.

Disciplinary Order(s)

Consent Order(s)

Andrew Loomis, LMSW (license #7156) – Ms. Trawick presented the signed consent order for Mr. Loomis. Ms. Anderson motioned to accept the order. Ms. Williams seconded the motion and it passed.

Stephanie Perdue, LCSW (license #4343) – Ms. Trawick presented the signed consent order for Ms. Perdue. There was a motion and a second to accept the order. The motion passed.

Petition for Order of Compliance

Michael Wentworth, LCSW (license # 6124) – Ms. Trawick presented the petition for order of compliance and notice from the disciplinary coordinator that all terms have been met. Ms. Williams motioned to approve the petition for order of compliance. Mr. Zylstra seconded the motion and it passed.

At 12:30pm Ms. Williams and Ms. Wright left the meeting, and the Board no longer held a quorum.

Discuss and consider need for an additional investigative consultant – the Board members were asked to think of a potential candidate and inform the Board attorney.

Discuss and consider supervision rule changes –

The Board discussed the need to remove the Supervision Plan from the website until the Board further contemplates how to execute and require the plan.

Ms. Trawick discussed supervision rule changes with the Board. The old rule allowed for 75% of supervision to be done virtually and this was removed with the new draft rules.

The Board discussed the reciprocity licensure issue where statutorily and within Board rules, it requires applicants to be residing or working in Tennessee to qualify for licensure by reciprocity.

Update from Karen Franklin, NASW Executive Director – Ms. Franklin and Ms. Trawick will work together on suggested rule revisions. As of January 2023, the NASW has a new CEO. Ms. Melissa West, the program manager with NASW, is working towards the CE licensure requirement. The one-hour CE course is available on the NASW's website free for members and \$15 for nonmembers. The three hours of ethics course is available on their website as well. NASW is currently working towards revising their 12-hour supervision training program. By Fall, there will be a three-hour supervision training on reflective supervision.

Next year, the NASW will be lobbying to join the Compact. The BSW and MSW examinations will not be a requirement to join the compact. She reports we will start to see more applicants who have not taken the ASWB examination, and the pass/fail rates of the exam are a concern right now.

The meeting adjourned at 1:26pm CT.