



Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists

Minutes for May 10, 2024, Board Meeting

In accordance with the Miss. Code Ann. § 73-53-8 and the Open Meetings Act § 25-41-1 and 25-41-17, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage & Family Therapists (Board) held a Board meeting on Friday, May 10, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. at 5 Old River Place, Suite 205, Jackson, MS 39202 and via Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Gerard Tarrant, LMFT, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. A quorum of Board members was present.

Opening Remarks

Roll Call

Members Present: Gerard Tarrant, LMFT, Board Chair
Dr. Valerie Joiner, LCSW, Board Vice-Chair
Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC
Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC
Bobby Scott, LMFT
Veronica Knowles, LCSW
Carrie Coggins, LMSW
Kenya Gatlin, LCSW

Members Absent: Dr. Jeff Hinton, LMFT
Valerie Burnett, LSW

Staff and Guests: Erica Allen, Executive Director, MBOE
Sarah Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General
Chelye Amis, Special Assistant Attorney General
Britney Mangum, Executive Director, MAMFT
Gwen Bouie-Haynes, Executive Director NASW-MS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Rosalind Yarber to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Scott moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to approve the amended April 2024 Board minutes. The amendment to the minutes was Veronica Knowles vote under the LMSW Level by Universal Recognition Reciprocity changed from voting aye to abstention. The motion carried unanimously.

II. LICENSURE VOTES

Social Work

The following candidate(s) were presented for licensure:

LSW Level

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Shelbi Moore
Jennifer Spears
Dana Weeks
Octavia Hall

LSW Level by Universal Recognition Reciprocity

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level by Universal Recognition. The motion carried with the following members voting aye: Gerard Tarrant, Valerie Joiner, Kenya Gatlin, Rosalind Yarber, Bobby Scott, Carrie Coggins, and Catherine Jones; Voting Against: None; Abstention: Veronica Knowles; Recusal: None; Absence: Jeff Hinton and Valerie Burnett.

Estell Felton
Jessica Garner
Shanika Winn
Felicia Harper

LMSW Level

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Faith Webster
Elizabeth Powell
Jennifer Russo
Courtney Freeman
Ashelie Blankenship
Forrest Crumby

LMSW Level by Reciprocity

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carried unanimously.

LeAnna Gordon
Lasharra Jenkins
Ashleigh Hite

*Nina Francisco
Debany Corral-Ozaeta*

LMSW Level by Universal Recognition Reciprocity

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. The motion carried with the following members voting aye: Gerard Tarrant, Valerie Joiner, Kenya Gatlin, Rosalind Yarber, Bobby Scott, Carrie Coggins, and Catherine Jones; Voting Against: None; Abstention: Veronica Knowles; Recusal: None; Absence: Jeff Hinton and Valerie Burnett.

*Jamie Anderson-Newsome
Makina Brown
Jimmie Cathey Jr.
Jinger Cathey
Natasha Durr
Shanice Hayes
Rometta Johnson*

*Kimberly Jones
Charlotte Peels
Earnestine Perryman
Jamesha Rule
Marie Sheppard
Amerial Smith
Shalonda Willis*

LMSW Reinstatements

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for reinstatement at the LMSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

*Lori Hodges
Brenda Barber
Tamecia Curry*

LCSW Level

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

*Regina Wilcox-Lewis
Taylor Kirk
Jordan Muddle
Pamela Libys
Samantha Henrie
Mable Curb
Elizabeth Coleman*

LCSW Level by Reciprocity

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carried unanimously.

*Donald Hupp Jr.
Ann Matino
Suzanne Williams
Megan Wetherbee
Temetha Tate
Kristena Patridge*

*Kermindra Maberry
Colleen Friedman
Keryl Cruickshank
Angela Allen
Mary Barlow
Whitney McCray*



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Marriage and Family Therapy

The following candidate(s) were presented for licensure:

LMFT Reinstatements

Catherine Jones moved and 2nd by Bobby Scott to approve the following candidate for licensure at the LMFT level for Reinstatement. The motion carried unanimously.

Joyce Johnson

III.REPORTS

Executive Director – Erica Allen

Office Updates

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the IT Managed Services contract with US Next in the amount of \$7,200.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Valerie Joiner to approve a spending authority at an authorized amount no greater than \$25,000.00 to purchase office furniture through Workplace Solutions. The motion carried unanimously.

Erica Allen presented the Expenditure Report. A copy of the report is attached.

The Board requested Erica Allen determine whether its liability insurance was up to date.

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Rosalind Joiner to accept the Expenditure Report for April 30, 2024, subject to audit. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair – Gerard Tarrant

There was no report given.

Board Vice-chair – Dr. Valerie Joiner

There was no report given.

Chair of Social Work – Rosalind Yarber

There was no report given.

Chair of Marriage & Family Therapy – Catherine Jones

Catherine Jones gave an update on Part 1903 Rules and Regulations update.

Board Member(s)

Veronica Knowles attended the ASWB Educators meeting.

Legal Counsel – Sarah Mann

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Rosalind Yarber to appoint Valerie Joiner and Gerard Tarrant to respond to the VA Declaratory Opinion. The motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Work CE Report

Rosalind Yarber reported approval of 3 Designated Provider renewals for continuing education.

MFT CE Report

There was no report given.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no report given.

V. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Reports on New and Current Complaints

Erica Allen discussed the Complaints File Report, updating the Board on the status of pending complaints and investigations. A copy of the report is attached.

Reports on Disciplined Licensees' Progress

The subject of 19-201 has submitted a request to return to active status.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Carrie Coggins moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to go enter closed determination to determine if the Board had reason to go into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Valerie Joiner to exit closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Chairman Gerrard Tarrant stated that the Board determined that Executive Session was necessary for the purposes of discussing complaint case SW19-201 and SW22-229.

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to enter executive session for the purpose of complaint case SW19-201. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Scott moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the return to active status request with a letter of caution to the subject of SW19-201. The motion passed unanimously.

Valerie Joiner moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve Patricia Barrios for supervision only and deny counseling for the subject of SW22-229. The motion passed unanimously.


Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board resumed in open meeting and announced to the public the above-described action taken by the Board in executive session.

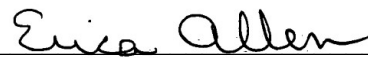
VII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held June 14, 2024 in Suite 205 at 5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 at 10:30 a.m. and also be available via Zoom. Please see the website for more information under Board Information.



Chair



Recorder