



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

## Minutes for February 14, 2025, 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, February 14, 2025, 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 10:30 a.m. A quorum of Board members was present.

### **II. Opening Remarks**

#### **Roll Call**

#### **Members present:**

Gerard Tarrant, LMFT, Board Chair  
Veronica Knowles, LCSW, Board Vice-Chair  
Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC  
Bobby Scott, LMFT  
Courtney Denton, LMFT

Jessica Culpepper, LSW, RN, MPH  
Carrie Coggins, LMSW  
Kenya Gatlin, LCSW  
LaPatrick Stephens, LCSW

#### **Members absent:**

Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC

#### **Board representatives present:**

Patrick Johnson, Executive Director  
Kimberly Black, Contract Employee  
Kim Turner, Assistant Attorney General  
Chelye Amis, Special Assistant Attorney General  
Denise DeRossette, Cornerstone Consulting Group

#### **Members of the public present:**

Dr. Gwen Bouie-Haynes  
Carla Stubbs  
Derrick McGruder

Veronica Jackson-Byrd  
Amanda Cavette  
Tornika Bell

### **III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Gerard Tarrant accepted the agenda. Bobby Scott moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Jones to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

### **IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bobby Scott moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Jones to approve the January 10, 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

### **V. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Denise DeRossette reported on meetings with House of Representatives and Senate Appropriations Committees. Explained need to move budget authority out of salary and into contracts. Also discussed DFA Internal Control Assessment.

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Coggins a motion to approve a letter to the legislature requesting budget authority to move \$45,000 from salaries to contracts for FY 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Scott moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenya Gatlin a motion to allow the Executive Director to make budget modifications up to \$5,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Catherine Jones moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenya Gatlin a motion to approve modification of the Staffers, Inc. contract to extend through June 30, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Bobby Scott moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Coggins a motion to approve modification of the Cornerstone Consulting Group contract to extend through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Kenya Gatlin made a motion to go into closed session to determine if Executive Session was necessary.

Carrie Coggins moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Culpepper to go into Executive Session to discuss prospective litigation.

No action taken.

Veronica Knowles moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Culpepper to leave Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VII. REPORTS**

#### **Executive Director - Patrick Johnson**

Reported on upcoming entry meeting with the Office of the State Auditor  
No action required

#### **Board Chair – Gerard Tarrant**

There was no report given

#### **Board Vice-Chair – Veronica Knowles**

Reported on upcoming Board Training by ASWB in March, Leadership Training in May, and the Role of the Regulator

#### **Chair of Social Work – Rosalind Yarber**

Not present

**Chair of Marriage and Family Therapy – Catherine Jones**

There was no report given

**Board Member(s)**

There was no report given

**Legal Counsel**

There was no report given

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Social Work CE Report**

3 CE applications were approved

1 Designated Provider renewal application was approved

1 Designated Provider renewal application was denied

**Marriage and Family Therapy CE Report**

4 CE applications were approved

1 CE application was denied

**II. LICENSURE VOTES**

**Social Work**

**LSW Level**

Carrie Coggins moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kenya Gaitlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Kimberly Fulgham

Courtney Jarrell

**LSW by Reinstatement**

Veronica Knowles moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Culpepper to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level by Reinstatement. The motion carried unanimously.

Casey Kitchens

**LMSW Level**

Veronica Knowles moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Katherine Davis

Mackenzie Gossett

Cekeidra Griffin

Jaegoo Lee

Briana Lofton

Ashley Omerza

Mallory Reed

Tanya Taylor

**LCSW Level**

Veronica Knowles moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidate for licensure at the LCSW level. The motion carries unanimously.

Jo Anna Tucker Stewart  
Demetria Wells

**LCSW by Reciprocity**

Veronica Knowles moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica Culpepper to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carries unanimously.

Lisa Hamilton-Clark  
Tania Marr  
Oquandryia Ross

Robert Staaf  
Jessica Williams

**Marriage and Family Therapy**

The following candidates were presented for licensure: Please see attached list

**LMFT Level by Endorsement**

Catherine Jones moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Courtney Denton to approve the following candidate for licensure at the LMFT level. The motion carried unanimously.

Stacey Hill

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**NASW-MS Chapter**

No report was given

**V. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

**Reports on New and Current Complaints**

**VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Not needed

**VII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Gerard Tarrant moved and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Catherine Jones to adjourn meeting. The motion carried Unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held March 14, 2025, in Suite 205 at 5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 at 10:30 a.m. and available via Zoom.

X



Gerard Tarrant,  
Chair

X



Kimberly Black  
Recorder

## Social Workers (1859)

### FY25 Budget Summary as of December 31, 2024

Funds Center/ Commitment Item	Current Budget	Purchase Order	Parked	Total Commitments	Actuals	Available Budget/ TOTAL
<b>TOTAL</b>	272,876.00	9,492.27		9,492.27	67,526.11	195,857.62
60000 Salaries Wages	174,748.00				45,767.60	128,980.40
60300 Travel & Subsisten	10,000.00				2,559.40	7,440.60
61000 Services	70,000.00	9,409.34		9,409.34	19,143.18	41,447.48
62000 Commodities	13,000.00	82.93		82.93	55.93	12,861.14
63200 Cap Out # Equip Dir	5,128.00					5,128.00

## Social Workers (1859)

### FY25 Budget Summary as of January 31, 2025

<b>Funds Center/ Commitment Item</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>Purchase Order</b>	<b>Parked</b>	<b>Total Commitments</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Available Budget/ TOTAL</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	272,876.00	13,288.14	1,021.00	14,309.14	89,529.69	169,037.17
60000 Salaries Wages	174,748.00		271.00	271.00	56,354.44	118,122.56
60300 Travel & Subsisten	10,000.00				2,559.40	7,440.60
61000 Services	70,000.00	13,205.21	750.00	13,955.21	30,559.92	25,484.87
62000 Commodities	13,000.00	82.93		82.93	55.93	12,861.14
63200 Cap Out # Equip Dir	5,128.00					5,128.00

Amendment #1 to  
Professional Services Contract  
Contract Between  
The Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists  
and  
Cornerstone Consulting Group, Inc.

This document (hereinafter referred to as “Amendment Number 1” shall serve to amend the original Professional Services Agreement executed July 16, 2024, between Cornerstone Consulting Group, Inc. and the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.

Cornerstone Consulting Group, Inc. and the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists by entering into this Amendment Number 1, mutually agree that the following provisions shall modify the aforementioned Agreement.

**Contract Period of Performance**

This article is hereby amended so as to extend the Agreement through the close of business on June 30, 2025.

**Consideration**

This article is hereby amended as follows:

Cornerstone agrees to perform the Scope of Services hereunder to the satisfaction of the Agency during the period of performance identified in this Contract, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Contract, for the consideration of an hourly rate of \$90.00 for all tasks and services performed. The maximum total amount of services, however, payable by the Agency to Cornerstone Consulting Group, Inc. under this Contract, for all products, services, travel, performance, costs and expenses of whatever kind and nature, shall not exceed \$17,000.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement executed July 15, 2024, shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

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Denise B. De Rossette, President  
Cornerstone Consulting Group, Inc.

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Gerard Tarrant, Board Chairman  
Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and  
Marriage and Family Therapists

Amendment #2 to  
Professional Services Contract Between  
The Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists  
And Staffers Inc.

This document (hereinafter referred to as "Amendment Number 2") shall serve to amend the original Professional Services Agreement executed July 16, 2024, between Staffers, Inc. and the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists

Staffers Inc. and the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists by entering into this Amendment Number 2, mutually agree that the following provisions shall modify the aforementioned Agreement.

**Paragraph 6. Period of Performance**

This paragraph 6 is hereby replaced as follows:

This contract will become effective for the period beginning July 16, 2024, and ending on or before December 31, 2024, upon the approval and signature of the parties hereto. This contract may be extended through July 15, 2026, upon approval of all parties.

**Paragraph 7. Method of Payment**

Paragraph 7. is hereby amended to reflect that the final invoice is to be submitted no later than July 31, 2025.

**Exhibit "C" Compensation**

This exhibit shall be replaced as follows:

The Contractor will charge the hourly rates listed below:

Administrative Office Support	\$14.28 an hour from July 17 <sup>th</sup> through October 11 <sup>th</sup>
Administrative Office Support	\$18.60 an hour from October 12 <sup>th</sup> through June 30, 2025 <sup>th</sup>
<b>The entire contract shall not exceed \$22,000.00</b>	

The Agency agrees that if the Admin Office Support employee does not work under contract for a period of 14 weeks and chooses to become a full-time employee of the Board before the 14 weeks is complete, the provisions for paying up to 560 hours of contract services may be invoked by the Contractor.

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement executed July 16, 2024 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Collum, Staffers Inc.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerard Tarrant, Board Chairman  
MS Board of Examiners for Social Workers & Marriage  
and Family Therapists



**FY25 Budget Modification and Contractual Review**

<b>Budget Categories</b>	<b>FY24 Expenditures</b>	<b>Current Budget</b>	<b>FY25 Modified Budget</b>
Salaries	128,402.61	174,748	127,080
Travel	6,118.04	10,000	7,000
Contractual	65,134.51	70,000	130,796
Commodities	13,031.71	13,000	6,500
Equipment	7,926.03	5,128	1,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>220,612.90</b>	<b>272,876</b>	<b>272,876</b>

	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annualized</b>
Cannata (Lease)	2,166.67	26,000.04
RJ Young (Copy Rental)	179.04	2,148.48
Pitney Postage Rental	804.06 / qtr	3,216.24
Staffers	2,420.00	22,000.00
Cornerstone		17,000.00
IT (US Next)	600	7,200.00
Postage		2,500.00
Postage Box Rental		364.00
DFA		7,031.00
Printing		2,500.00
Insurance McGriff Surety)		350.00
Memberships and Events		7,000.00
Cspire (Cell Phone)		650.00
ITS		5,700.00
AD&S (Prior Year Unpaid)		990.00
LARS/Network		10,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>114,649.76</b>

February 14, 2025

Chairman W. Briggs Hopson, III, Senate Appropriations  
Chairman John O. Read, House Appropriations  
Mississippi State Capitol

Dear Sirs:

The Board of Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists voted today to request a transfer of \$45,000 salary authority to the contractual line item for FY25.

The Board was without an Executive Director for the first three and a half months of the year. The Administrative Support Assistant position, which was also vacant, was not to be filled until the director could be hired and assess the agency's needs. This position is now on recruitment and should be filled by March 1, 2025. These vacancies have resulted in excess authority in the agency's salary target.

A contractual agreement with a temporary staffing agency has been in place since the beginning of the fiscal year to ensure the administrative and licensure functions of the agency could be met. A contract was also entered into with Cornerstone Consulting Group to perform fiscal and budget duties that had traditionally been performed by the Director. These contracts will be reduced as soon as the staff is hired and trained.

Due to the reliance on contractual assistance and the reduction in salary expense, the Board is requesting authority to transfer \$45,000 from its FY25 salary target to the contractual line items for the remainder of FY25. This additional contractual authority will cover the increased contractual service costs and will allow the Board to pay for its fingerprinting contract, perform limited computer enhancements and provide for other services that have not been performed due to the current contractual constraints.

The Board's current salary target is \$174,74; approval of this request would reduce the FY25 salary target to \$129,748. The monthly and annual State Personnel Board compliance reports, which are included as an attachment, support this request.

If you have any questions or need additional information concerning this request, please contact Denise De Rossette at [Denise@conrerstonems.org](mailto:Denise@conrerstonems.org) or 601.540.4485.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Gerard Tarrant, LMFT  
Board Chairman

Cc: Representative Clay Deweese  
Senator Angela Turner Ford  
Lee Anne Robinson, Director Legislative Budget Office  
Lee Pitman, House Budget Officer  
Corbin Stanford, Senate Budget Officer

## SPB Compliance Reports from January 2025

### Monthly Report – Reflects Balance of \$47,706 based on January Salary Expense

2/7/2025 12:20:55 PM

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		Monthly Total	Projected Spending	Salary Authority	Compliance	Original HC (07/01)	Current HC	HC Change	Vacancy Dollars
Rehab Services - Consolidated	0331	\$5,109,753	\$61,317,031	\$65,589,122	\$4,272,091	956	981	25	\$4,638,365
Revenue	0181	\$3,392,298	\$40,707,582	\$45,418,585	\$4,711,003	550	562	12	\$3,552,229
Secretary of State	0111	\$593,553	\$7,122,639	\$7,838,298	\$715,659	96	90	-6	\$267,256
Social Workers & Marriage/Family Therapist	0868	\$10,587	\$127,042	\$174,748	\$47,706	2	2	0	\$35,487

### YTD Report – Reflects Balance of \$78,140

		YTD Actual	Projected Spending	Salary Authority	Compliance
Pearl River Valley Water Supply District	0487			\$6,042,231	
Personnel Board	0160	\$2,369,396	\$4,061,822	\$4,447,072	\$385,250
Pharmacy Board	0845	\$1,437,417	\$2,464,144	\$2,619,106	\$154,962
Physical Therapy Board	0828	\$98,961	\$169,648	\$220,562	\$50,914
Psychology Board	0823	\$49,823	\$85,411	\$93,009	\$7,598
Public Accountancy Board	0841	\$247,892	\$424,957	\$476,949	\$51,992
Public Broadcasting	0247	\$3,250,616	\$5,572,485	\$6,387,731	\$815,246
Public Contractors Board	0834	\$697,316	\$1,195,399	\$1,272,385	\$76,986
Public Employees Retirement System	0530	\$6,559,885	\$11,245,516	\$12,839,437	\$1,593,921
Public Safety - Consolidated	0711	\$87,400,120	\$149,828,777	\$154,410,851	\$4,582,074
Public Service Commission	0811	\$2,539,763	\$4,353,880	\$4,451,482	\$97,602
Public Utilities Staff	0812	\$1,223,536	\$2,097,491	\$2,520,137	\$422,646
Rehab Services - Consolidated	0331	\$35,410,295	\$60,703,363	\$65,589,122	\$4,885,759
Revenue	0181	\$23,574,290	\$40,413,069	\$45,418,585	\$5,005,516
Secretary of State	0111	\$4,208,474	\$7,214,526	\$7,838,298	\$623,772
Social Workers & Marriage/Family Thera	0868	\$56,354	\$96,608	\$174,748	\$78,140

**CE Sub-Committee for February 2025 MBOESWMFT Board Meeting (Activities for January 2025)**

<b>Date Received</b>	<b>App #</b>	<b>Event Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Event Date</b>	<b># and Type Hours Requested</b>	<b>Status / Date</b>	<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1/2/2025	25.01	Social Work Ethics & Cultural Diversity Seminar 2024	New Beginnings	2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/6, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 10/9, 11/13 (all 2025)	Requesting 4 ethics, 2 cultural competency, and 1 mandatory reporting	Approved for 4 ethics, 2 cultural diversity, and 1 mandatory reporting	Tarsha Taylor, Ruth Drake, Gloria White	1/2/25 received email application form Board. Sent to reviewers with deadline of 1/24. 1/24/25 sent approval email to Board.
1/7/2025	25.02	Building Resilience in Social Work Practice Spring 2025 Conference	Beyond the Brokenness Mental Wellness Solutions, LLC	4/11/2025	Requesting 1 ethics, 2.5 cultural diversity, 1 clinical, and 3 general	Approved for 3 general/clinical hours, 1 general only, 1 clinical/cultural diversity, and 1 ethics (all PENDING receipt of correct evaluation)	Danielle Seale, <del>Candace Riddley</del> , Roshonna Edwards (Candace responded that she cannot review this time).	1/7/25 received email application. 1/8/25 Sent to reviewers with deadline of 1/29. 1/21/25 emailed Board PENDING approvals based on receiving correct evaluation.

1/13/2025	25.03	Empowering Elders	Morton Law Firm	1/15, 2/19, 3/19, 5/21, 6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/19, 12/17 (all 2025)	Requesting 11 General hours	Approved for 4 hours general, 2 hours cultural diversity, and 1 hour mandatory reporting	Danielle Seale / Christy Ashley	1/13/2025 received application by email as applicant claims they sent to Board but had not received decision. Board nor CE Committee ever received application. Christy let Patrick know if they would go ahead and re-submit, the review could be requested as a rush. 1/14/2025 Danielle agreed to review along with Christy since this was a rushed application. 1/14/2025 emailed decision to Patrick and Kimberly.
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1/17/2025	25.04	Training Series: Empowering MS Child Welfare Champions	Heal Thy Self Counseling Services	4/5, 4/12, 4/19, 4/26 (all 2025)	Requesting 2 ethics hours, 2 cultural diversity hours, and 4 general hours			1/17/2025 received email application from Board. 1/21/25 Application appears to be for 4 individual workshops. Sent email back to Board for clarification and how they need to resubmit if it is four different workshops. 1/23/25 received email from the board where applicant contacted them for clarification on how to resubmit application corrected. Same day sent email back confirming this clarification. 1/24/25 waiting on resubmission of applications.
1/17/2025	25.05	The Impact of Technology on Social Work Practice	Family and Youth Opportunities Division, Inc.	3/14/2025	Requesting 1.5 ethics and 3.5 general		Pat Terry / Linda Hodges	1/17/2025 received email application from Board. 1/21/25 sent application to reviewers with deadline of 2/11

**CE Sub-Committee DP Status Report to the Board for  
February 2025 (December/ January 2025 activities)  
\*\*Please note – No applications were received during January 2025**

<b>Date App Received</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>New or Renewal</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Reviewers</b>	<b>Comments</b>
12/12/2024	Combined Human Support Services, Inc.	Renewal	12/7/2024	Reviewed by 3 reviewers due to size of submission - recommended for renewal by one reviewer and not recommended for renewal from two reviewers	Christy Ashley / Dr. Mary Nelums / Danielle Seale	12/12/24 picked up renewal application and documents from Board. 12/16 sent Patrick email notifying that Dr. Nelums and I would review after holidays. Application was submitted after DP status expired. 1/14/25 sent email to Board detailing concerns and recommendations.
12/20/2024	St. Dominic Hospital	Renewal	12/15/2024	Not Approved by Reviewers	Christy Ashley / Dr. Mary Nelums	12/20/24 received application from Board. DP status expired 12/15 however, St. Dominic had submitted application on November 27th but it was not forwarded from the Board until 12/20. 12/30 emailed Dr. Nelums and asked if we could get reviewed with deadline of January 15th. 1/13/25 sent email to Board as to why not recommended for approval.



MFT DSC

February 7, 2025

Members: Gerard Tarrant-Present, Catherine Jones- Present, Bobby Scott- Present, Courtney Denton - Present

**I. Continuing Education**

**a. Offerings Reviewed**

- 1. MAMFT Conference, approved sponsor application – 4 ethics hours, 2 supervision hours, 8 general hours – review resubmitted, with added workshop - approved**
- 2. Pine Grove – Neurobiology of Addiction - .5 general - approved**
- 3. Pine Grove – An Overview of ACT – 1.0 general - approved**
- 4. Pine Grove – Equity in Mental Health Contexts – 1.0 general -denied due to qualifications of presenter**
- 5. Pine Grove – Medication Assisted Treatment - .5 general – approved**