

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

Minutes for March 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, March 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 10:33 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 Bobby Scott, LMFT Courtney Denton, LMFT Carrie Coggins, LMSW Kenya Gatlin, LCSW LaPatrick Stephens, LCSW

Members absent:

Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC Jessica Culpepper, LSW, RN, MPH

Board representatives present:

Patrick Johnson, Executive Director Chelye Amis, Special Assistant Attorney General

Members of the public present:

Veronica Jackson-Byrd

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Gerard Tarrant accepted the agenda. Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Courtney Denton to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve the February 14, 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

V. REPORTS

Executive Director - Patrick Johnson

Reported on entry meeting with the Office of the State Auditor, training with Cornerstone, and moving forward with filling the Administrative Assistant I position

No action required

Board Chair - Gerard Tarrant

Will be absent May Board Meeting due to personal obligation

Board Vice-Chair - Veronica Knowles

ASWB spring education meeting in May, Acknowledgement of March being Social Work month and Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve sending 2 to 3 representatives from the Board to ASWB leadership conference pending verification of available funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair of Social Work - Rosalind Yarber

Not present

Chair of Marriage and Family Therapy – Catherine Jones

Not present

Board Member(s)

LaPatrick Stephens requested staff review of Board Approved Supervisors list and an update on hotel status for use during Board meetings

No action required

Legal Counsel

There was no report given

COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Work CE Report

3 CE applications were approved

Marriage and Family Therapy CE Report No applications to review

VI. LICENSURE VOTES

Social Work

LSW Level

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

Aaron Artigues Anna Ellison

LSW by Universal Recognition

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. The Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists has determined that it cannot offer licensure in this manner as that is not what the statute intended. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Melissa Lee

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Davida Allen

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Veronica Jackson- Byrd

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process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Flandria Marion

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Andronneka McCullum

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Ty'Anna Ross

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Alexis Shannon

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Arica Smith

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Markesia Stewart

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Carla Stubbs

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Monica Weathersby

LMSW Level

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level. The motion carried unanimously. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones.

Misha Day Nicole Garrard-Black Constance Harrison Marjhuan Jackson Keisha Kipp Erin Oakes Kacie Tatum Okwuchi Worthem

LMSW by Reciprocity

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carried unanimously. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones.

Jennifer McWilliams

LMSW by Universal Recognition

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Daphne Baker

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Tornika Bell

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Nickole Blackman

Barbara Carter

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Cassandra Carter

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Rhonicia Clark

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Bonnie Courtney

Elicia Davis

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Charlottes Dean

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Crystal Evans

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Andrea Fields

Leuvervia Foster

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Tonna Gaines

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Angilica Gowdy

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Carolyn Grant

Kendra Hall

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Kameshia Hardy

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Jada Harris

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Maurice Jackson

Odessa King

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Emanami Kirk

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Fredericka Luckett

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Derrick McGruder

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Felicia Mitchell-Epps

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Starkisha Moore

Takaila Oliphant

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Gabriel Parson

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Stephanie Peterson-Jones

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Charity Robinson

Kimberly Rose

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Ty'Anna Ross

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Diane Sanford

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Alexis Shannon

Melissa Short

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Arica Smith

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Victoria Smith

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Markeisha Stewart

Carla Stubbs

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Sheron Tate

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Carol Taylor

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Precious Watson

Jolyn Winn

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to deny the following candidate for licensure at the LMSW level by Universal Recognition. Your application for LMSW licensure has been reviewed and it was determined that you do not meet the requirements for an LMSW license in the State of Mississippi. Pursuant to the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act, Mississippi shall recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states. The Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act encourages licensed professionals residing in other states to move to Mississippi by making their licensing process more streamlined. It is not intended to serve as an alternative pathway to licensure for Mississippi residents. Voting Aye: Kenya Gatlin, Carrie Coggins, Veronica Knowles, LaPatrick Stephens. Voting Against: Bobby Scott, Courtney Denton, Gerard Tarrant. Absent: Rosalind Yarber, Jessica Culpepper, and Catherine Jones. Motion carries.

Sabrina Young

LCSW Level

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidate for licensure at the LCSW level. The motion carries unanimously.

Desmond Griffith

LCSW by Reciprocity

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carries unanimously.

Wendy Brown Kennedy Chatham Aleshia Grant Roshonda Tolbert

Marriage and Family Therapy

LMFTA

Bobby Scott moved and 2nd by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMFTA level. The motion carried unanimously.

Samuel Asay Jacob Dennee

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Kenya Gatlin moved and 2nd by Bobby Scott to adjourn meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held April 11, 2025, in Suite 205 at 5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 at 10:30 a.m. and available via Zoom.

Gerard Tarrant,

Chair

Patrick Johnson

Executive Director