



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

## Minutes for April 22, 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 Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 6:00 p.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 6:06 p.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  
Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC  
Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC

Bobby Scott, LMFT  
Courtney Denton, LMFT  
Carrie Coggins, LMSW  
Kenya Gatlin, LCSW

#### **Members absent:**

None

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

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

#### **Member of the public present for public comment:**

Dr. Gwen Bouie-Haynes, NASW

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

Veronica Knowles moved with a second by Rosalind Yarber to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Bobby Scott moved with a second by Courtney Denton to approve the March 14, 2025 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

## **V. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Bobby Scott moved with a second by Kenya Gatlin to go into closed session to determine whether an Executive Session is needed. The motion carried unanimously.

In open session, Chairman Gerard Tarrant announced that the Board has reason under Miss. Code Ann. §25-41-7 (4)(b), as amended, to go into Executive Session namely to have a strategy session or negotiation with respect to prospective litigation, when an open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body.

Kenya Gatlin moved with a second by Rosalind Yarber to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing prospective litigation. The motion carried unanimously.

No action taken

Veronica Knowles moved with a second by Kenya Gatlin to exit executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

## **RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION**

Chairman Gerard Tarrant announced there was no action taken during Executive Session

## **VI. REPORTS**

### **Board Chair – Gerard Tarrant**

Thanked Board for their service, informed the Board of his resignation

## **VII. LICENSURE VOTES**

### **Social Work**

#### **LSW Level**

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Elise Duke  
Dianesha Henderson  
James Mattic IV.  
Marion Newman  
Ayanna Taylor

#### **LMSW Level**

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level. The motion carried unanimously.

Austin Eubanks

Hope Gustafson

Jennifer Gwin  
Jessica Humbarger

Tracy Humphrey  
Chelsea Ortiz

### **LMSW by Reciprocity**

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carried unanimously.

Keisha Banks-McMillian  
Amanda Clough  
Lauren Kropf  
Begona Saiz

### **LCSW Level**

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Carrie Coggins to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level. The motion carries unanimously.

LaQuanana Cistrunk  
Andrea Germany  
Jefria Jones  
Haylee Zadrozny

### **LCSW by Reciprocity**

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LCSW level by Reciprocity. The motion carries unanimously.

Brenda Burrell  
Christopher Davis  
Huey Hawkins Jr.  
Adrian Osborn  
Valerie Perry

Toya Pride  
Rahmona Reyes  
Joelle Silva  
David Steed

## **Marriage and Family Therapy**

### **LMFT**

Catherine Jones moved with a second by Bobby Scott to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMFT level. The motion carried unanimously.

Jordan Bass  
Kellie Payne


## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Dr. Gwen Bouie-Haynes thanked Gerard Tarrant for his commitment to the Board, reported on NASW efforts to fill vacant Board positions, and encouraged the Board to continue its efforts in transparency.

## **VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

Veronica Knowles moved with a second by Kenya Gatlin to adjourn meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held May 9, 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   
Patrick Johnson  
Executive Director