



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

Minutes for February 20, 2026, 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 20, at 8:30 a.m. at 5 Old River Place, Suite 205, Jackson, MS 39202 and via Zoom.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Bobby Scott, LMFT, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum of Board members was present.

II. Opening Remarks

Roll Call

Members present:

Bobby Scott, LMFT, Board Chair
Veronica Knowles, LCSW, Board Vice Chair
Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC
Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC

Carrie Coggins, LMSW
Kenya Gatlin, LCSW
Courtney Denton, LMFT
Heath Games, LMFT

Board representatives present:

Patrick Johnson, Executive Director
Kim Turner, Assistant Attorney General

Member of the public present for public comment:

Dr. Gwen Bouie-Haynes, NASW-MS
Britney Mangum, MAMFT

Member of the public:

Glenn Swartzfager, Special Assistant Attorney General
Dana Gordon
Edward Wiggins, Jr.
Ty'Anna Ross

Veronica Jackson-Byrd
Carla Stubbs
Monica Weathersby
Maurice Jackson
Tornika Bell

Charlotte Dean
Andronneka McCullum

Gabriel Parson

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Heath Grames moved with a second by Rosalind Yarber to approve the January 9, 2026, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

V. REPORTS

A. Executive Director

Patrick Johnson presented the Financial Report – Exhibit A

Heath Grames moved with a second by Courtney Denton to approve the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

Patrick Johnson gave an update on pending legislation.

B. Board Chair

Bobby Scott discussed Artificial Intelligence.

C. Vice-Chair

Veronica Knowles reported on continued work with the Compact Commission.

D. Chair of Social Work

Rosalind Yarber reported on the upcoming NASW Conference.

E. Chair of Marriage and Family Therapy

No Report Given

F. Board Members

No Report Given

G. Legal Counsel

No Report Given

H. Committees

I. Social Work CE

Patrick Johnson reported that the Social Work CE Committee have approved 4 CE applications, have 1 pending additional information, and 1 was not approved.

II. Marriage and Family Therapy CE

Catherine Jones reported that the MFT Committee have approved 38 CE applications and 8 were returned pending corrections.

VI. LICENSURE VOTES

Social Work

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Kenya Gatlin to approve the candidates for licensure as detailed in Exhibit B. The motion carries unanimously.

Marriage and Family Therapy

Catherine Jones moved with a second by Courtney Denton to approve the candidate for licensure as detailed in Exhibit C. The motion carries unanimously.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

NASW-MS – Dr. Gwen Bouie-Haynes – Discussed Artificial Intelligence legislation and continued Board Transparency.

MAMFT – Britney Mangum – Thanked the Board for its flexibility in allowing Board Members to attend the MAMFT Conference.

VIII. HEARINGS

DH26-001

Rosalind Yarber moved with a second by Kenya Gatlin to go into a closed determination session to establish the need for an Executive Session.

Kenya Gatlin moved with a second by Carrie Coggins to go into Executive Session.

Heath Grames moved with a second by Rosalind Yarber to return to an open meeting.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Bobby Scott announced that during Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to uphold the licensure denial.

DH26-010

Ms. Clark did not appear for the hearing.

Heath Grames moved with a second by Courtney Denton to go into a closed determination session to establish the need for an Executive Session.

Courtney Denton moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to go into Executive Session.

Heath Grames moved with a second by Rosalind Yarber to return to an open meeting.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Bobby Scott announced that during Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to uphold the licensure denial.

DH26-009

Veronica Knowles moved with a second by Courtney Denton to go into a closed determination session to establish the need for an Executive Session.

Heath Grames moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to go into Executive Session.

Heath Grames moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to return to an open meeting.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Bobby Scott announced that during Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to uphold the licensure denial.

DH26-007

Heath Grames moved with a second by Courtney Denton to go into a closed determination session to establish the need for an Executive Session.

Courtney Denton moved with a second by Veronica Knowles to go into Executive Session.

Veronica Knowles moved with a second by Heath Grames to return to an open meeting.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Chairman Bobby Scott announced that during Executive Session the Board voted unanimously to uphold the licensure denial.

VIII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Kenya Gatlin moved with a second by Heath Grames to adjourn meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

The next Board meeting will be held March 12, 2026, in Suite 205 at 5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39202 at 8:30 a.m. and available via Zoom.


Bobby Scott (Mar 13, 2026 11:03:26 CDT)

Bobby Scott,
Board Chair


Patrick Johnson (Mar 13, 2026 11:15:10 CDT)

Patrick Johnson
Executive Director