



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

Minutes for September 13, 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, September 13, 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 10:37 a.m. A quorum of Board members was present.

Opening

Remarks Roll

Call:

August minutes were not prepared and will need to be approved at October's meeting.

Members Present: Gerard Tarrant, LMFT, Board Chair
Veronica Knowles, LCSW, Board Vice-Chair
Catherine Jones, LMFT, Chair of MFTDSC
Rosalind Yarber, LSW, Chair of SWDSC
Bobby Scott, LMFT
Courtney Denton, LMFT
Lapatrick Stephens, LCSW
Carrie Coggins, LMSW
Kenya Gatlin, LCSW

Members Absent: Valerie Burnett, LSW

Staff and Guests: Kimberly Black, Contract Employee
Sarah Mann, Special Assistant Attorney General
Chelye Amis, Special Assistant Attorney General
Gwen Bouie-Haynes, Executive Director NASW- MS
Denise DeRosette, Cornerstone

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

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

August minutes were not prepared and will need to be approved at the October meeting.

II. REPORTS

Financial Report

Bobby moved and 2nd by Kenya Gaitlin to approve the budget submission based on the information presented by Denise DeRossette. The motion carried unanimously.

Carrie moved and 2nd by Bobby Scott to extend Cornerstone's contract at \$90.00 an hour not to exceed \$3,500.00, which will include training for the new Executive Director. The motion carried unanimously.

Kenya moved and 2nd by Rosalind Yarber to increase Kawanda Dixon's salary by 7%. The motion carried unanimously.

Board Chair – Gerard Tarrant

Gerard Tarrant addressed the Board

Board Vice-Chair – Veronica Knowles

Veronica Knowles addressed public protection and remaining committed to service

Chair of Marriage & Family Therapy – Catherine Jones

Catherine Jones addressed continuing the Rules and Regulations

Chair of Social Work – Rosalind Yarber

Rosalind addressed training with Beth and UROLA revisions

New member training

Website Update

Board Members

There was no report given

Legal Counsel – Sarah Mann

Follow up on open complaints

COMMITTEE REPORT

Social Work CE Report

There was no report given

MFT CE Report

There were twenty- five continuing offerings approved

III. LICENSURE VOTES

Social Work

The following candidate(s) were presented for licensure:

LSW Level

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

Emily Carter

LSW Level by Universal Recognition Reciprocity

Rosalind Yarber 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, Kenya Gatlin, Rosalind Yarber, Bobby Scott, Carrie Coggins, and Catherine Jones; Voting Against: Lapatrick Stephens, Abstention: Veronica Knowles; Recusal: None;

Sheila Harper
Beverly Harris
Eloise Welton

LSW Reinstatement Application

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

Eddie McClain
Nyokeni Owens

LMSW Level

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

Latoya Cole
Emerald Meadows
Madeline Cash
Jalexia Heard
Mollie Adams
Pamela Richardson
Ceasley Martin
Victoria Monroe
Calleen Petersen
Katherine Pacheco
Mallory Burden

LMSW Level by Reciprocity

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

Michael Briggs
Brandy Johnson
Donald Brown

LMSW Level by Universal Recognition

Rosalind Yarber moved and 2nd by Kenya Gaitlin to approve the following candidates for licensure at the LMSW level. The motion carried with the following members voting aye: Gerard Tarrant, Rosalind Yarber, Carrie Coggins, Bobby Scott, Catherine Jones, Courtney Denton; Voting Against: Lapatrick Stephens; Abstention: Veronica Knowles;

Zandra Anderson
Manerva Smith
Sharon Holliday
DeMetra Bates
Lakeisha Roberts
Cheryl Brown

Quianti Merchant
Lakeia Starks
Serrenthia Davis
Tabatha Jones
Nivia Murry
Lillie Scott

LMSW Reinstatements

Rosalind Yarber and 2nd by Kenya Gatlin to approve the following candidates at the LMSW level.

Delores Gordon - Williams

LCSW Level

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

Katherine Cooley
Chad Parker
Jennifer Briggs
Sarah Harrell
Lauren Shoemake
Angela Macklin
Rushie Clayton

LCSW Level by Reciprocity

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

Sarah Chapman
Caitlin Norton
Natalie Henry
Jeffrey Coira
Paul Del Giudice
Marquita Cage
Analisa Arizpe
Colleen Simmons
Kenya Nelson
Tawanica Newell

Marriage and Family Therapy

The following candidate(s) were presented for licensure:

LMFTA Licensure

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

Micah Jones
Danielle Taylor

LMFT Licensure

There were no candidates presented at this level

LMFT Reinstatements

Catherine moved and 2nd by Courtney Denton to approve the following candidate for licensure at the LMFT level.

Allie Bass

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Gwen Bouie Haynes - addressed The Board regarding Board appointments Consistency when it comes to public safety

Questions about the financial report Amendment to the agenda

Britney Mangum – No report

V. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Reports on New and Current Complaints

There was one new complaint and it was assigned to Lapatrick Stephens Kimberly Black will send out notices to the complainant.

Reports on Disciplined Licensee's Progress

Kimberly Black will forward the complaint spreadsheet to the Board members Board members will reach out to counsel.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gaitlin to exit closed session and enter into an open session to explain the reason for going into executive session. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board announced to the public the reason for going into executive session. In open session, Chairman Gerard Tarrant stated that the Board determined that Executive session was necessary for the purpose of discussing 2 personnel matters.

Veronica Knowles moved and 2nd by Kenya Gaitlin to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing 2 personnel matters.

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

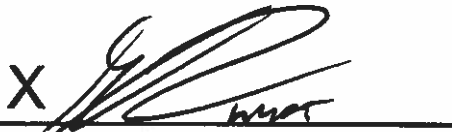
Carrie Coggins moved and 2nd by Kenya Gaitlin to accept the approval of the hiring committee's recommendation to hire Chad Daniels to start October 1, 2024, at the salary of \$61,080.06.


If Chad doesn't accept the offer move to the next candidate Patrick and if Patrick declines then the Board will readvertise the position. Bobby moved; Voted Against: Veronica Knowles

VII. CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

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

The next Board meeting will be held October 11, 2024 on the 2nd floor, suite 205, 5 Old River Place, Jackson, MS 39212. The meeting will be held at 10:30 AM and available via Zoom. Please see the website for more information.

X 
Gerard Tarrant
Board Chair

X 
Kimberly Black
Recorder