

Board Meeting Minutes
The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
June 17, 2016

The regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on June 17, 2016. Board Chair, Esophia Clayborn, called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

There was a quorum of members present including:

District V representative Esophia Clayborn – Chair

District II representative Jennifer Venable-Humphrey – Vice Chair

District IV representative Amy Smith – Secretary

District I representative Sharrie Cranford

District III representative Valeri White

District VI representative Marilyn Colson

District VII representative LaShea Cobb-England

Ellen Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, and Executive Director Brenda Holden were present for the meeting.

Unless otherwise specified, all votes were taken by a show of hands. Proper notice for the meeting was provided to the Secretary of State and posted on the Secretary of State website.

Vice Chair Jennifer Venable-Humphrey read the following statement on behalf of the Board:

The Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners pauses to recognize the victims of the mass shooting in Orlando on Sunday June 12, 2016, One of whom has been identified as a professional social worker. We also remember those who lost their life in a mass shooting in a Charleston, SC church one year ago today. As we pause we remember that the profession of social work values the dignity and worth of every human life. Our thoughts are with the families of victims, first responders and all others impacted by these tragedies.

The Board recognized guests present for the meeting as follows: representatives of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), Medicaid, Alabama Department of Public Health, and Vice Chair Venable-Humphrey's BSW intern.

Approval of Minutes

A copy of the minutes from the April 8, 2016, Board Meeting was distributed and reviewed. Marilyn Colson made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Board Business

- a. Brenda Holden updated the Board on status of complaints. There are nine (9) open complaints. Two (2) have agreements, one (1) is open for investigation report, one (1) is waiting for an update from the Court, five (5) need settlements or a hearing scheduled.
- b. The Board reviewed the listing of new licensees. Esophia Clayborn recommended the following changes: consistently reflect the names of the universities on the listing of licenses, date change from 2017 to 2016. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to approve the list of new licensees. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- c. Ms. Karen Gearhart and her attorney, Hon. Paul Holland addressed the Board to appeal the Board's decision made at the April 8, 2016, meeting regarding reinstating her license as inactive. Board introductions were made. Ms. Gearhart and her representative were given the floor to communicate her position regarding appeal of the Board's decision. Ms. Gearhart and her representative were advised the Board will take their information under advisement, discuss further, and provide an official response in writing. The Board discussed the information provided by Ms. Gearhart and her representative. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to deny the request of Ms. Karen Gearhart for reconsideration of the Board's decision regarding reinstating her license as inactive. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. The Board discussed new information regarding ethics training. The Board discussed the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) recommended standards related to ethics training that are available on their website.
- e. Chair Esophia Clayborn presented information surrounding supervision recommendations and standards. ED Brenda Holden presented some examples from other states regarding how those states train their license supervisors. Chair Esophia Clayborn suggested that and recommendations related to this subject be tabled until a later meeting after issues related to license nomenclature are fully addressed.
- f. Vice Chair Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendation for the Brittany Hensley hearing. Valeri White seconded the motion. The Board entered discussion related to the wording in the recommendations related to fines assessed. Following discussion, Vice Chair Jennifer Venable-Humphrey withdrew her original motion and amended her motion to accept the Hearing Officer's recommendations for the Brittany Hensley hearing removing the changes regarding fines assessed. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following members voting in favor: Esophia Clayborn, Sharrie Cranford, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey, Valeri White, Amy Smith, Marilyn Colson. LaShea Cobb-England abstained.
- g. ED Brenda Holden advised the Board that she has not received any response from Ms. Heather L. Higdon, LGSW, regarding supplying her acceptable CE documentation as requested in her audit. A date will be set for a hearing regarding the licensure status of Ms. Heather L. Higdon, LGSW.

Board broke briefly at 11:00am and reconvened at 11:15am.

New Board Business

- a. Vice Chair Jennifer Venable-Humphrey updated the Board regarding her participation with ED Brenda Holden at the ASWB Spring Education meeting. ED Brenda Holden advised the Board that she has been invited to speak at the Clinical Association meeting on September 16, 2016. Ms. Sharrie Cranford advised that she has been invited to speak at the Veteran's Administration in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- b. The Board agreed that hearings would be scheduled regarding the licensure status of the following licensees who have failed to comply with the Immigration Compliance after a Complaint Notice and Agreement was issued:
Rachid Bagana (inactive)
Wendy Felton-Wright (active)
Melissa Ivy (inactive)
Susan Stewart (inactive)
Brenda Summerville (inactive)
- c. Valeri White made a motion to approve the agreements for the following licensees who submitted Immigration forms and paid their \$100.00 fine: Lisa Mitchell, LBSW, and Vivian Aparicio, LGSW. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
- d. ED Brenda Holden briefly discussed the roles of Director at Large and Nominating Committee members for Association of Social Work Boards nominations. The Board discussed possible nominations. The Board agreed that Jennifer Venable-Humphrey will submit a nomination for Chair Esophia Clayborn to serve a one year term on the ASWB Nominating Committee, and for Sharrie Cranford to serve a 2 year term on the ASWB Nominating Committee.
- e. The Board briefly discussed recent changes in legislation related to licensure levels and guidelines for who qualifies for the new licensure levels. Chair Esophia Clayborn briefed the Board on the Reform Meeting that she attended and discussion held at said meeting regarding the new legislation. It was agreed that a Board Meeting would be set to solely discuss the changes in legislation and needed changed to the Administrative Code as a result.

PIP Applications

- a. Lucinda Armstrong – Approved Clinical Social Work
- b. Sommer Copeland Bradshaw – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- c. Heather Marie Gibbon – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- d. Carolyn Coley Miller – Approved Clinical Social Work
- e. Kathryn Leith Smith – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- f. Ashley Canady Toland – Approved Clinical Social Work

Requesting Additions:

- g. Ashley H. Underwood – Denied additions of Community Organization and Social Work Research

- h. Autumn W. White – Denied additions of Community Organization and Social Work Administration

Requesting Reconsideration:

- i. Kerry Baharanyi – Approved Clinical Social Work

Late Request:

- j. Krystal Lynn Hasselvander – Approved Social Casework; Denied Clinical Social Work and Social Work Administration
- k. Kate Nelson-Dooley – Approved Clinical Social Work
- l. Kathleen P. King – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- m. Jessica Lynn Mays – Approved Social Casework, Clinical Social Work and Social Work Administration

Other Requests

- a. Reviewed, discussed, and recommended that Ms. Patrice Davis of Baldwin County Public Schools be referred back to her employing agency's policy regarding her inquiry about whether school Social Workers can hand out head lice shampoo to parents of students with head lice.
- b. Reviewed, discussed, and approved three (3) requests of INR for CE approval: Understanding Addictions: Food, Drugs & Alcohol (6 hours); Major Depression & Bipolar Disorders (6 hours); On Loss & Grief (6 hours)
- c. Valeri White made a motion to accept the request of Qinzhi Li, LGSW, for her CE hours to come from self-study as she is currently residing in China, and that the Board accept a program she earned the month she was licensed. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion carried with the following members voting in favor: LaShea Cobb-England, Sharrie Cranford, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey, Valeri White, Amy Smith, Marilyn Colson. Esophia Clayborn abstained.
- d. Discussed, reviewed and approved for Mark A. Fuqua to sit for the Master's Examination.
- e. Marilyn Colson made a motion to approve the request of James Warren to allow his Counseling CE's to count toward his CE's for Social Work licensure. Sharrie Cranford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Proposed Next Meeting Time and Location: July 1, 2016 at 9:30am

LaShea Cobb-England moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:33pm. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair


Esophia Clayborn

Board Secretary


Amy Smith