

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners  
Minutes of the Board  
September 8, 2017

The regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on September 8, 2017. Board Chair, Sharrie Cranford verified quorum of members was present and called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

In attendance:

District I Representative, Sharrie Cranford (Chair)

District II Representative, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey (Vice Chair)

District III Representative, Valeri White

District V Representative, Michael Smith

District VI Representative, Marilyn Colson

District VII Representative, LaShea Cobb-England

Laura Hughes, Executive Director

Ellen Leonard, Board Attorney

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 to the Secretary of State's website.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Copies of the minutes from the July 20, 2017 Board Meeting were reviewed. Corrections to the minutes were noted by Sharrie Cranford. Valeri White made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Old Business**

1. Laura Hughes stated there are fourteen (14) open complaints. Three (3) complaints have been closed and seven (7) complaints need hearings set.
2. The listing of new licenses issued since last meeting was reviewed. Marilyn Colson made a motion to approve new licenses since the last Board Meeting. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Discussion from the subcommittee on substance abuse issues was tabled until a later meeting.

### **New Business**

1. There have been no Board member speaking engagements since the prior meeting.
2. A letter was received from the Alabama Medicaid Agency requesting Board clarification on CPT codes that may be billed when provided by social workers. The Board discussed the issue. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey moved that Sharrie Cranford contact the Alabama Medicaid Agency for more clarification on the request. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

3. The Institute for Natural Resources requested Board approval for CEs on eight (8) courses. The courses were reviewed. Marilyn Colson moved to approve four (4) courses and deny four (4) courses. The motion to approve consisted of: Understanding Mental Disorders, Coping with Chronic Pain, Understanding Aging & Longevity, and Stress, Resilience, & Happiness. The motion to deny consisted of: Inflammation, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, Leg & Foot Pain, and Osteoporosis. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
4. The request from Mary JoAnna Melton to continue the licensure approval process was reviewed. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey motioned to request additional information from the candidate. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
5. The request from Jasmine D. Fears to continue the licensure approval process was reviewed. Valeri White motioned to approve the candidate to continue the process. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
6. The request from Diane Whitehead for reciprocity for the LICSW was reviewed. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey motioned to review the Public Protection Database to ensure there are no pending disciplinary actions. Sharrie Cranford seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
7. The request from Tysie Baker to waive CE requirements was reviewed. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey motioned to deny the request. Sharrie Cranford seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
8. The Board reviewed the current list of audit fails.
  - a. Caleb Blackman only had one (1) hour of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - b. Jennifer Ervin was missing three (3) hours of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Rachel Goetz was missing two (2) hours of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - d. Latonya Harris had not completed the mandatory reporting training for abuse. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed training. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - e. Marie Hood was missing one (1) hour of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
  - f. Katie McWilliams was missing required CE verification forms. LaShea Cobb-England moved to send a letter requesting the verification. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
  - g. Teresa Pope was missing three (3) hours of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

- h. Judy Roberts was missing three (3) hours of ethics training. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
- i. Judith Schulman-Jones was reported to be missing a CE summary form. The Board reviewed the CE certification. Michael Smith moved to renew the license based upon the proof of all CEs being present in the record by certificate. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- j. Jennifer Waites completed her ethics hours outside of the renewal period. Michael Smith moved to renew the license based upon the proof of all CEs being present in the record by certificate. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- k. Chaundra Weston-Jones was missing three (3) hours of ethics. Marilyn Colson moved to allow sixty (60) days to obtain the needed hours. Valeri White seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Sharrie Cranford dismissed the Board for a break at 10:32 a.m. Sharrie Cranford called the Board back to order at 10:36 a.m.

Sharrie Cranford dismissed Laura Hughes, Executive Director, from the meeting at 10:37 a.m. At this time, the Board discussed concerns over Laura Hughes' job performance. Discussion proceeded until 11:35 a.m. Sharrie Cranford moved to terminate the employment of Laura Hughes as Executive Director immediately due to job performance problems. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

At 11:38 a.m. Sharrie Cranford asked Laura Hughes to rejoin the meeting. Sharrie Cranford notified Laura Hughes of the termination effective immediately. Laura Hughes thanked the Board for the opportunity to work as Executive Director and exited the office.

The Board discussed interim action plans until a new Executive Director is hired. Valeri White moved that Karen Hester (current Board employee) serve as Interim Executive Director until a decision is made on hiring a new Executive Director. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

### **PIP Applications**

1. Jones: Approved Social Casework, Clinical Social Work; Denied Community Organization
2. Easlin: Approved Clinical Social Work
3. Cargile: Approved Clinical Social Work
4. Helveston: Approved Social Casework, Clinical Social Work; Denied Community Organization, Social Work Administration
5. Johnson: Approved Clinical Social Work; Denied Social Work Administration
6. Harrison: Approved Clinical Social Work; Social Casework
7. May: Approved Social Casework, Clinical Social Work; Denied Community Organization, Social Work Administration
8. Mason: Approved Clinical Social Work

9. Coker: Approved Clinical Social Work; Denied Social Casework, Community Organization, Social Work Administration, Social Work Research
10. Dawson: Approved Clinical Social Work, Social Casework, Social Work Administration
11. Sims: Approved Social Casework
12. Terry: Approved Clinical Social Work
13. McKee: Approved Social Casework, Clinical Social Work, Social Work Administration; Denied Community Organization, Social Work Research
14. Monroe: Approved Clinical Social Work, Social Casework, Social Work Research; Denied Community Organization, Social Work Administration

The date of the next Board Meeting was set for October 24, 2017, at 9:30 a.m.

Valeri White moved to adjourn the meeting. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Michael Smith



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Sharrie Cranford, Board Chair