

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2019

The regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on March 6, 2019, at Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama. Board Chair, Dr. Michael Smith, called the meeting to order at 9:32am.

There was a quorum of members present including:
District I representative Sharrie Cranford
District II representative Jennifer Venable-Humphrey
District III representative Valeri White
District IV representative Amy Smith – Secretary
District V representative Dr. Michael Smith - Chair
District VI representative Marilyn Colson
District VII representative LaShea Cobb-England

Ellen Leonard, Board Legal Counsel, was present. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson was also present for the meeting. Students and faculty of Auburn University's School of Social Work 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.

Approval of Minutes

Copies of the minutes from the January 11, 2019, meeting were reviewed. Valeri White made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Board Business

- a. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson updated the Board on status of complaints. There are currently two (2) open complaints. One (1) complaint needs a hearing scheduled. The other remains pending.
- b. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept approval of new licenses issued since the last Board meeting. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Board Business

- a. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey advised the Board that she will be attending the Alabama Post Adoption Connections' upcoming Permanency Conference where she has been asked to lead a workshop on Ethics as it relates to the Board.

Rachel Dickinson advised the Board of the recent ACSW Conference. Ms. Dickinson and Jennifer Venable-Humphrey advised there were over 100 students registered and in attendance, and that the presence of the Board was well-received.

Michael Smith advised that he and Jennifer Venable-Humphrey will be attending the Spring Education Conference in April 2019. Dr. Smith advised that Board members be considering who might want to attend the Delegate Assembly in the Fall 2019.

- b. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson provided the Board with a finance report Update. ED Dickinson explained the option the Board has to integrate automatic CE upload to the ABSWE Database using Alabama Interactive's services. She explained that the cost to implement that technology is a one-time cost of approximately \$2500.00. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept the one-time \$2500.00 fee to Alabama Interactive to implement the described service. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. Michael Smith solicited discussion. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey asked how long it would take to convert the program to implement this service. ED Dickinson advised it would take about three weeks. Budget availability was discussed and it was confirmed by ED Dickinson that the monies are available in the budget to support this cost. The motion passed unanimously.

ED Dickinson advised the Board of an option available to allow licensees to print their licenses from their own personal computer once approved. This would save some cost to the Board, and would be more efficient for employees of the Board. The cost to implement this service would be significantly more in the \$10-15,000 range. The Board discussed questions around this matter. The option for licensees to continue to receive their licenses through the mail would still be available. However, they would also have the option of receiving an email with their attached license for printing. Michael Smith asked what amount of money is spent, on average, yearly by the Board for costs related to printing and mailing licenses. ED Dickinson advised that approximately \$3,000-4,000 per year is spent on mailing the licenses, and that, in her estimation, it would take about 3-4 years to cover the cost of implementing that option if most licensees utilized that service. Dr. Smith asked that ED Dickinson prepare a detailed cost analysis that would be involved and table the idea until the next meeting.

ED Dickinson advised the Board on current travel costs. She advised that her costs, as well as Dr. Smith's travel costs have been paid for the upcoming Spring ASWB meeting. Dr. Smith advised that as we are increasing travel costs by showing more Board presence around the State, we will have to look at cost saving measures associated with those added expenses.

- c. Valeri White updated the Board related to the BSW level Supervisors subcommittee progress. They did hold a lengthy conference call as a subcommittee discussing this item. LaShea Cobb-England advised that, as a subcommittee, they agreed that the overall Supervision of Licensees is an area that needs to be addressed prior to approving additional levels of supervision for licensees. The Board discussed underlying concerns related to an approved Supervisor's level of

understanding of their responsibilities related to licensee supervision, and the fact that those basic issues need to be addressed before approving new Supervisors. Valeri White agreed to follow up with Dr. Wickersham with Jacksonville State University about a previous proposal to develop a curriculum for use by the Board to develop individuals providing supervision to Licensees in order to ensure their understanding of their responsibilities. Dr. Smith suggested changing of BSW Supervision Committee and changing its focus to the issue of monitoring and developing quality Supervision, as a whole. Discussion of possible Code changes related to Supervision was also discussed by the Board. Dr. Smith appointed LaShea Cobb-England, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey and Valeri White to a subcommittee related to Supervision issues, as a whole.

- d. The Board discussed procedure for handling business that may arise between Board meetings. Ellen Leonard addressed the Board related to these procedures and managing them legally and ethically.
- e. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson and Board Attorney Ellen Leonard advised the Board of prospective Administrative Code changes.
 - i. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to propose legislation to include the proposed definition of Telehealth. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - ii. Valeri White made a motion to approve proposed legislation to include military spouse reciprocity. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iii. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept the proposed legislative change regarding provisional status of licensees as written. The motion received no second. Therefore, the motion failed.

Marilyn Colson made a motion to approve the proposed legislative change regarding provisional status of licensees changing the period of ineligibility from one year to six months. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. Discussion was held regarding the proposed motion. All opposed. Therefore, the motion failed.

Sharrie Cranford made a motion that the proposed legislation regarding provisional status of licensees be amended to read that after the first year of provisional licensure that is allowed, a licensees provisional status would be revoked. However, licensee could continue to apply for examination, but would no longer be considered provisionally licensed. Marilyn Colson seconded that motion. Discussion was held regarding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - iv. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept the proposed legislative change regarding continuing education requirements amending the word "classroom" to read "traditional classroom based education." Amy Smith seconded the motion. Dr. Michael Smith, LaShea Cobb-England, Marilyn Colson, Sharrie Cranford and Valeri White voted in favor of the motion. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey opposed the motion. The motion carried.

- v. LaShea Cobb-England discussed with the Board some concerns that have been raised by her constituents because of the recent Newsletter release. She has received calls related to why Licensees are required to maintain Clinical related continuing education hours when they have no Clinical responsibilities. She relayed that upon exploring the law versus the Administrative Code, the law reads that “assessment and opinion” can be made at any level of licensure. However, the Code only addresses “diagnostic impression” at the Clinical level of licensure. She suggested that we look at amending the Administrative Code so the two read the same or similar regarding the Licensees responsibilities making it easier for Licensees to understand why Clinical hours are being required. It was agreed that Executive Director Rachel Dickinson will develop a proposed amendment to the Administrative Code to bring back to the Board for review.
- f. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson discussed a recent issue where Licensees are renewing several months prior to their renewal due date which is throwing off their renewal dates for their next Licensure cycle. As a result, the Board office has developed a parameter by which the License renewal cannot be submitted more than 20 days prior to their renewal due date. She wanted to advise the Board of this change in case constituent calls are received regarding this matter.
- g. Sharrie Cranford and Michael Smith agreed that they would be willing to participate in a committee formed by the Alabama Council on Higher Education to explore possible ways to improve Pass/Fail Rates on the licensure examination. Michael Smith made a motion for the Board to participate in the ACHE Task Force Committee to explore ways to improve Pass/Fail rates on the licensure examination. Sharrie Cranford seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other requests

- a. Michael Smith made a motion to deny the request of Lisa Burgess to use the Supervision as provided. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. Discussion was held related to continued issues surrounding the need for Supervisor registration as Ms. Burgess paid for Supervision that does not meet the requirements of the Administrative Code. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept endorsement/reciprocity at her current Licensure level, but advise her through a letter that she does not currently meet the requirements for PIP certification. Michael Smith seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously.
- c. Michael Smith made a motion to deny the request of Erin Porter to earn ten classroom hours during her grace period. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PIP Applications

- a. Baylis-Reynolds, Anna Louise – Approved Clinical Social Work

- b. Beziat, Brady E. – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- c. Blackstock, Joel Thomas – Denied Social Casework; Approved Clinical Social Work
- d. Brocker, Mary Campbell – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- e. Glenn, Laura Elizabeth – Approved Clinical Social Work
- f. Goodwin, Miranda – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- g. Hamrick, Richard Morgan – Approved Clinical Social Work
- h. Lett, Stephanie – Approved Social Casework; Denied Clinical Social Work and Social Work Administration
- i. Locklin, Kaitlin – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- j. Ellis-Murray, Dawn – Social Casework, Community Organization and Social Work Administration; Denied Clinical Social Work and Social Work Research
- k. Patterson, Emily – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- l. Toney, Latasha Diana – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work
- m. Wall, Jermaine A. – Approved Social Casework and Clinical Social Work; Denied Community Organization

Requesting Reconsideration or Addition

- n. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept the PIP application of Erica Innocent for Social Casework and Clinical Social Work. Dr. Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposed date for next Board Meeting: May 3, 2019, at 9:30am.

Valeri White made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair

Board Secretary


~~Michael Smith~~
 Sharrie Cranford

Amy Smith