

**The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2020**

A meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on May 6, 2020 via phone conference call. Board Chair, Valeri White, called the meeting to order at 9:43am.

There was a quorum of members present verified by roll call including:

District I representative Angela Dean
District II representative Kai Mumpfield
District III representative Valeri White
District IV representative Amy Smith
District V representative Dr. Octavio Ramirez
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.

Unless otherwise specified, all votes were taken by a roll call. Proper notice for the meeting was provided to the Secretary of State.

Approval of Minutes:

Copies of the minutes from February 27, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Octavio Ramirez made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Copies of the minutes from March 31, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Valeri White made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Dr. Octavio Ramirez 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 three (3) pending complaints that have been assigned. Two (2) need to be set for a hearing at June 2020 meeting of the Board.
- b. Valeri White 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. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson advised that, to her knowledge, there have been no invitations for Board members to speak at a conference or a program since the last Board meeting as most have been cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic/restrictions.
- b. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson reported to the Board on Board Finance status. No concerns were noted. No issues identified requiring further discussion.
- c. The Board entered discussion concerning proposed changes to the PIP Process/LICSW and Independent Practice. No action was taken. This subject was tabled for further discussion at the next scheduled Board meeting.
- d. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson advised the Board on current Legislative matters that might affect the Board and/or Licensees. She advised that the Legislature should be reviewing HB167 which would resolve Board issues identified through our most recent Sunset Review during this Legislative session. Dr. Octavio Ramirez inquired about other Bills that had been previously discussed among the Board. At this time, Executive Director Rachel Dickinson did not have updates available on any other Bills.
- e. Dr. Octavio Ramirez made a motion that we allow a six (6) month testing extension for licensure applicants who were required to reschedule their licensure test due to COVID-19. Marilyn Colson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Requests:

- a. Dr. Octavio Ramirez made a motion that Shannon Dunn be allowed reciprocity based on the information provided to the Board for review. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. The Board agreed that a letter will be sent to Robin Phillips on behalf of the Board asking that she appear before the Board to discuss her request before a final decision is made with regard to her request. Ellen Leonard, Board attorney, will review the letter before it's sent out to Ms. Phillips.

PIP Applications:

- a. Approval of all PIP applications has been tabled until upcoming June 2020 Board meeting.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 9:30am. This meeting will be held in person. Executive Director will explore options for a meeting space that will allow for social distancing in accordance with CDC recommendations for COVID-19 prevention.

Executive Director compensation issues:

The Board requested that they be allowed to meet outside of the presence of Executive Director Rachel Dickinson due to discussion around sensitive matters involving her compensation. Discussion was held

regarding Executive Director's pay classification, and a possible need to increase her salary range because she has reached the maximum level of compensation under her current pay scale.

- a. Valeri White made a motion to recommend increased pay range to the Governor and State Personnel Board. Marilyn Colson seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Marilyn Colson made a motion that the Board request a 5% pay raise for Executive Director Rachel Dickinson. Dr. Octavio Ramirez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marilyn Colson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:40a. Amy Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair


Valeri White

Board Secretary

Amy Smith