

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020

A meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on June 11, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuant to Section III Open Meeting Act of the Proclamation issued the 18th day of March 2020, by Governor Kay Ivey some members attended remotely. Secretary, Amy Smith, called the meeting to order at 9:35AM.

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

District I representative Angela Dean (via telephone)

District II representative Kai Mumpfield

District III representative Valeri White (via Zoom)

District IV representative Amy Smith

District V representative Dr. Octavio Ramirez

District VI representative Marilyn Colson

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 the May 6th meeting were reviewed. Marilyn Colson made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Kai Mumpfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Scheduled Hearings: Carl Pate's agreement to informal settlement was reviewed. Valeri White made a motion to approve the agreement. Amy Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Requested Appearance: Executive Director Rachel Dickinson explained that a letter was mailed to Ms. Robin Phillips requesting her to appear before the Board regarding her request to reinstate her license. She explained that she has not heard from Ms. Phillips regarding this request. Ellen Leonard, Board Attorney, explained that had two options – one, the Board could invite her again or two, the Board could deny her request. Kai Mumpfield made a motion to deny Ms. Phillips request to reinstate based on her failure to appear. 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 three (3) pending complaints that have been assigned.
- b. Dr. Octavio Ramirez 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. Amy Smith advised that 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. Amy Smith inquired as to if the registrations to take the exam had begun even with restrictions in place. Rachel Dickinson responded that they are picking back up and it has not slowed down the registration process.
- c. i. The Board entered discussion concerning the PIP Process approval process. Kai Mumpfield wanted to address the Board regarding the PIP Process once you are a Board member. Being on the Bd not having clinical designation and having submitted information in the past and now having a better understanding of how the process works and how it can be subjective based on who was reviewing the application. To now have information to write it in a way that I have done clinical work for years and I currently do clinical work and then to be able to submit with my renewal. If I had known I would have submitted the application sooner. It feels unfair and I feel that I need to advocate for those that are not on the Board and do not have this information. Attorney Leonard stated she did not want anyone to not put in to be on the Board. Some things we could do, and we will come back to this after the hearing, is we could ask previous Board members to review applications not current members. I would hate for someone to say that they do not want to be on the Board because they are looking for a different license level. Ms. Mumpfield explained the request would not have changed her current license designation it would just be an addition to her PIP. Amy Smith explained that she was not at that meeting when the Board member's request came before the Board and she believed that the application did not meet all the necessary requirements and that it may have become a point of contention. She does agree that we do not want to discourage anyone from joining the Board. She suggested then that we need to move on to our scheduled hearing and to come back to PIP process discussion afterwards. The meeting was then turned over to Judge Jerry Wood. Please see the attached report from Eagle Court Reporting in the matter of John Rittman. A break was taken at 10:04am to return at 10:14am. The meeting resumed at 10:14am. Ms. Smith resumed the PIP process discussion asking of Ms. Leonard "How would we find prior members to review?" Ms. Leonard said it would be fairly easily to locate two former members to review the applications. Marilyn Colson reminded the Board that there had been a vote at a previous meeting regarding the PIP process so we would have to modify that motion and vote again. Ms. Leonard & Ms. Smith agreed that would be correct. Dr. Ramirez agreed he liked the idea of having an external review of applications. He raised the question regarding

supervisor status once the rules are changed and he would like to apply for that approval, he wanted to include all applications for sitting members be part of the external review process. Ms. Smith agreed. Ms. Dean agreed and liked the idea of being reviewed by former members. Ms. Leonard suggested based on the request to reconsider we make a motion to change allow former Board members to review. Ms. Mumpfield said she would abstain from making a motion because she requested the topic to be discussed. Ms. Colson made a motion to reconsider how the Board reviews applications of current Board members for supervision and/or PIP applications be subjected to an external review by prior Board members. Dr. Ramirez seconded the motion. Ms. Smith asked for any discussion. Ms. Smith then said she was not present at the meeting where the original issue was raised but she was not comfortable that the ones who were at that meeting were not actually present at today's meeting her intention will be to abstain to vote. Ms. White suggested they could table until the July meeting if necessary. Dr. Ramirez said that as a member and was present at the meeting in discussion that he felt comfortable with the motion. Ms. Smith asked did we want to move forward with a vote or table the motion. Dr. Ramirez said by maintaining the current vote on the PIP process it could deter future Board members wanting to serve the Board. Ms. Colson agrees having a former member review the applications would remove any chances of discrimination. Dr. Ramirez suggested to remove any identifying information from the applications before the review. Ms. Mumpfield agreed that would be a fair and balanced assessment of the application. Ms. White pointed out that this will tie to the upcoming supervision changes as well because if the only PIP certification we recognize will be social case work then this will be more standardize. Ms. Smith asked for Ms. Dickinson to repeat the current motion. Dr. Ramirez asked to amend and add to remove any identifying information. Ms. Colson said she was good with that amendment. Ms. Smith asked for a vote. Ms. Mumpfield asked if she should abstain, Ms. Leonard suggested she should. Ms. Smith abstained, Ms. Mumpfield abstained, Ms. White voted no. Three in favor. The motion passed. Dr. Ramirez reminded everyone we can always revisit when review the final rule changes.

ii. Legislative Update – Ms. Dickinson explained because of the COVID-19 pandemic that our legislation did not pass but that the legislators who carried our bill will carry it again next year.

The Board then began the questioning of Ms. Robin Phillips regarding her request for reinstatement. Ms. Smith began by asking Ms. Phillips to address the Board about her request. Ms. Phillips thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. She stated that previously her case was open and shut and that some items surrounding the case had been twisted. At that time, she was readjusting to life and should not have taken on so much work. When she left the meeting 2 years ago, she left deflated. She did not feel that she did anything wrong. She did not feel that she had the tools at that time. Ms. Leonard stated that she does not feel that Ms. Phillips had been truthful with the Board. That she had been held in contempt of court for not completing home studies for her client in Mobile County. The Court ordered her to do the home studies. Ms. Phillips said she completed them. Ms. Smith asked if there was an order to pay them back and if she did. Ms. Phillips said she paid one back and turned in the orders to the Judge in Mobile. Ms. Leonard stated there had been no evidence she completed the home studies

or paid back the clients. Ms. Smith said stated that she is a licensed social worker and she has an obligation to fulfill my duties to my clients. That is what she is obligated to do as a social worker. Ms. Smith said she is still hearing what was heard that day two years. She expressed that the job of the Board is protect the public from people who do not fulfill their obligations as social workers. That is our job. Ms. Smith said that she has only heard from Ms. Phillips what seem to be excuses. Ms. Smith went on to say that she did not mean any of that disrespectfully. Ms. Phillips asked to speak to that. She agreed that she was behind on home studies, but they were turned in. She did not complete them in a timely manner. She does take full responsibility. Ms. Mumpfield asked how she submitted the documents, and can she produce them. Ms. Phillips said she could produce them. She said that she would send Executive Dickinson the documents. There were no more questions. Ms. Smith asked did the Board want to wait to see if she submits the documents. Ms. Dean asked even if she did submit the documents would it change anyone's opinion. Ms. Smith made a motion to deny her request to reinstate her license. Ms. Colson seconded. Dr. Ramirez asked did we not already deny her request at the beginning of the meeting because she did not show? Ms. Smith withdrew her motion because it had already passed. The Board had a break at 11:16am. The Board resumed at 11:26am.

iii. Supervision – Ms. Mumpfield made a motion to accept the changes as submitted. Ms. White seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Dr. Ramirez asked that Ms. Dickinson send a clean copy of the rules to everyone.

Other Requests:

- a. Ms. Smith made a motion that Katharine Jones be allowed to only use twenty-six hours of her current supervision toward her Clinical license. Ms. Mumpfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PIP Applications:

- a. Addaway, Megan – Social Casework - Approved
- b. Barrett, Chris – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- c. Carden, Kimberly – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- d. Fortson, Brittney – Social Casework – Approved, Clinical Social Work - Denied, Community Organization Denied, Social Work Administration Denied
- e. Gaffey, Sarah – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- f. Gale, Laura – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- g. Gay, Whitney – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work - Denied
- h. Haggard, Carlton – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- i. Hanns, Alva – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- j. Haynes, Philip – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work - Approved, Community Organization - Denied, Social Work Administration - Denied
- k. Huckaby, Rachel – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work - Approved
- l. McCrary, Brenda – Clinical Social Work - Approved, Community Organization - Approved, Social Work Research – Denied, Social Work Administration Approved

- m. McGainey, Kimberly – Social Casework- Approved, Clinical Social Work – Approved , Social Work Administration - Approved
- n. Masterski, Kristin – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work- Approved, Social Work Administration - Denied
- o. Mullaney, Denise – Clinical Social Work - Approved
- p. O’Quinn, Heidi – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work - Approved, Social Work Administration - Approved
- q. Romano, Sara – Social Casework - Approved, Clinical Social Work - Denied, Community Organization - Denied
- r. Thompson, Jamie – Social Casework – Approved , Clinical Social Work – Denied, Community Organization - Denied, Social Work Administration - Denied
- s. Williams, Lakiesha – Social Work Administration - Approved

2. PIP Reconsideration/Addition

- a. Best-Box, Joyce – Clinical Social Work - Approved, Community Organization - Approved, Social Work Research - Denied, Social Work Administration - Approved
- b. Brown, Cassandra – Social Work Administration - Approved, Community Organization – Approved
- c. Cranford, Sharrie – Social Work Research – Moved for external review
- d. Strain, Kelley – Clinical Social Work – Approved

It was decided to have the next meeting July 15th, 2020. Ms. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:31pm. Ms. Mumpfield seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair

Board Secretary

Valeri White

Amy Smith

