

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2019

The regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on January 11, 2019.

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. The following guests were present to observe the Board meeting: Ms. Dottie Dawson, and Ms. Delores Calhoun.

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 September 11, 2018, and November 13, 2018, meetings 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 one (3) open complaints. All have been assigned.
- b. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to accept approval of new licenses issued since the last Board meeting. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Board Business

- a. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey inquired about the status of having a booth available at the ACSWE Conference for greater visibility. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson advised that this has been

coordinated, and there will be an ABSWE booth at the event. Valeri White advised that the Board has been invited to hold the March 2019 Board meeting on the campus of Auburn University. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board will be held at Auburn University on March 27, 2019, at 9:30am.

- b. Executive Director Rachel Dickinson provided the Board with a Finance Report Update. Reports no Board finance issues.
- c. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey provided a verbal report to the Board regarding her attendance as a Delegate at the 2018 ASWB Annual Delegate Assembly and Business Meeting. She also provided a written summary of her report which is attached.
- d. Valeri White updated the Board on her progress in exploring how other states handle the issue of Supervision at a BSW level. Ms. White advised that she had provided the Board with emailed information she had received from ASWB related to this issue. The Board discussed the need to possibly identify a minimum number of years of practice by a Bachelor level Social Worker to qualify them to provide Supervision. Dr. Michael Smith suggested that the Board create a committee to further explore this issue. Shea Cobb-England, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey, and Valeri White agreed to appointment to a committee to further explore Supervision by Bachelor level Social Workers. The committee will begin work on a proposal for the Board on this matter.
- e. Valeri White updated the Board on the status of developing a uniform PowerPoint presentation for use by Board members when making presentations at speaking engagements.
- f. Executive Director, Rachel Dickinson, was excused from the meeting of the Board for the Board's review of her Employee Performance Evaluation. Board counsel, Ellen Leonard, addressed the Board regarding her performance. There was also discussion held among Board members regarding her performance. Shea Cobb-England made a motion to increase the salary of Executive Director Rachel Dickinson effective January 16, 2019, from Step 12 to Step 14. Sharrie Cranford seconded the motion. The Board held discussion related to Mrs. Dickinson's positive performance with the redesign of the agency website, among other areas of above-standard performance. The motion passed unanimously. Following completion of the performance evaluation, Mrs. Rachel Dickinson rejoined the meeting, and was advised of the Board's decision.

Other requests

- b. This item was addressed by the Board out of order of the meeting agenda. Licensee Dottie Dawson addressed the Board regarding her request for approval to use CEs earned during her grace period for renewal of her license. Discussion was held by the Board regarding her request. Sharrie Cranford made a motion to approve the request of Ms. Dawson to use CEs that were earned during her grace period for renewal. Valeri White seconded the motion. Sharrie Cranford, Marilyn Colson, Valeri White, Amy Smith, and Dr. Michael Smith voted in favor of the motion. Shea Cobb-England and Jennifer Venable-Humphrey voted in opposition. The motion carried by vote.

Additional Item

- a. Ms. Delores Calhoun presented at the Board meeting with a request to present to the Board in person. Ms. Calhoun discussed, on behalf of herself and other license applicants, concerns that she has regarding the difficulty of the licensure examination, and questions related to how it is developed. She was advised that any questions related to test development and reliability should be addressed to the National Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) as they defend the development and reliability of the examinations. Ms. Calhoun was provided with contact information for ASWB, as well as information on available resources for examination preparation. Dr. Michael Smith suggested that the issue of licensure examination development and reliability be added to a future Board agenda for further discussion. Following Ms. Calhoun's presentation to the Board, the Board agreed that should Ms. Calhoun contact the Board office regarding this concern in the future, we would ask that she provide an official complaint to the Board in writing.

New Board Business

- g. Dr. Michael Smith made a motion to accept the draft of potential statutory/code changes which would allow the Board to impose various fees on licensees, address provisional licensure from other states/licensing agencies, and reword Mandatory Reporter training from the Department of Human Resources. Shea Cobb-England seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- h. Marilyn Colson made a motion to allow Clinical and Supervision CE's to be earned during a licensees grace period through December 2019. Sharrie Cranford seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Other requests

- a. Valeri White made a motion to deny the request of Susanne Booth, LBSW, to use CEs not earned in the classroom. Shea Cobb-England seconded the motion. Discussion was held relate to reinstatement, and retesting as options when renewal requirements are not met. It was discussed that, at this time, the Board's only option would be to waive classroom hour requirements. Amy Smith, Jennifer Venable-Humphrey, Shea Cobb-England, Valeri White, and Marilyn Colson voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Michael Smith and Sharrie Cranford opposed. The motion carried by vote.

PIP Applications

- a. Howard, Adriane – Approved Social Casework and approved Clinical Social Work
- b. Innocent, Erica – Denied Social Casework and denied Clinical Social Work with a letter to the licensee regarding identified eligibility issues
- c. Linebarger, Latoia – Approved Social Casework, approved Clinical Social Work, denied Community Organization and approved Social Work Administration

- d. Middleton, Jerri – Approved Clinical Social Work
- e. Miller, Heidi – Approved Social Casework and approved Clinical Social Work
- f. Page-Nsougan, DeChandriss – Approved Social Casework, approved Clinical Social Work and denied Social Work Administration
- g. Prellwitz, Cathy – Approved Social Casework, approved Clinical Social Work and denied Social Work Administration
- h. Roye, Amaris Carol – Approved Clinical Social Work
- i. Russ, Malaika – Approved Social Casework, approved Clinical Social Work and approved Social Work Administration
- j. Stephens, Rachel – Approved Social Casework, approved Clinical Social Work and denied Social Work Administration
- k. Warren, Leslie – Approved Social Casework and approved Clinical Social Work

Requesting Reconsideration or Addition

- l. Thomas, Amber – Approved Clinical Social Work
- m. Whitby, Ebony – Approved Clinical Social Work

Proposed date for next Board Meeting: March 6, 2019, at 9:30am at Auburn University

Valeri White made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm. LaShea Cobb-England seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair



Dr. Michael Smith

Board Secretary



Amy Smith