

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners
Board Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2018

The regular meeting of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners was held on March 2, 2018. Board Chair, Sharrie Cranford, called the meeting to order at 9:39am.

There was a quorum of members present including:

District I representative Sharrie Cranford – Chair

District II representative Jennifer Venable-Humphrey – Vice Chair

District III representative Valeri White

District IV representative Amy Smith – Secretary

District V representative - Michael Smith

Ellen Leonard, Board Legal Counsel, was present. Interim Executive Director Karen Hester was also 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 12, 2018, meeting were reviewed. Michael Smith made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Board Business

- a. Interim Executive Director Karen Hester updated the Board on status of complaints. There are currently eight (8) open complaints. One (1) was closed since the last Board meeting. No new complaints were assigned. One (1) Cease and Desist letter was issued on an unlicensed Social Worker.
- b. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to accept approval of new licenses issued since the last Board meeting. Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to approve the PIP Certification of Iola McCloud, LICSW, as requested in Social Casework and Clinical Social Work, and deny Community Organization and Social Work Administration. Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Michael Smith made a motion to approve the addition of the PIP Certification of Laura Heffington-Johnson, LICSW, as requested in Social Casework and Social Work Administration. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- e. Karen Hester advised Board members that letters have been mailed to CE Providers in reference to recent changes in CE requirements.

New Board Business:

- a. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey will be speaking to Alabama Department of Public Health employees on March 7, 2018, in reference to supervision requirements. Jennifer Venable – Humphrey also addressed the Board encouraging representatives to reach out to Social Work program administrators at colleges and universities within their districts to encourage them to move toward licensure and introduce themselves as district representatives.
- b. Karen Hester provided the Board with a Finance Report Update. Ms. Hester also advised Board members that James Dupree, Investigator, will be joining Board staff as a retired State employee.
- c. Karen Hester reminded Board members that Ethics Commission forms are due by April 30, 2018.
- d. Karen Hester advised Board members that a recent audit yielded perfect results. She recognized the efforts of Board staff in that achievement.
- e. Board members discussed inviting Kimber Wickersham, LICSW, to address the Board related to her efforts to develop a training module specific to Supervision CE. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to support the efforts of Wickersham in her development of a training module specific to Supervision CE. Michael Smith seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- f. Board members reviewed and discussed resumes received from applicants for the Executive Director position. It was discussed that Board members would choose their top candidates from resumes submitted and forward names to Sharrie Cranford by March 16, 2018, so that interviews can be scheduled.
- g. Board members discussed the substance abuse monitoring piece for licensees found to be practicing impaired. Crystal Barnes with Bradford Health Services will be advised that this content remains under review by the Board. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to submit an RFP to identify an entity to monitor treatment compliance of licensees found to be practicing impaired. Discussion was held, and a decision was made to table the matter before the Board until additional information could be obtained related to cost and how it would operate, among other questions.
- h. Michael Smith and Sharrie Cranford will be attending the Association of Social Work Boards' May meeting.
- i. Kathy House from SBIRT addressed the Board on the topic of availability of a tool to help practitioners assess Opioid abuse. Board members reviewed and discussed the information and agreed that a link to the assessment tool will be shared on the ABSWE website.
- j. Board members reviewed and discussed development of a mobility worksheet that would be available to applicants online. Michael Smith and Shea Cobb-England are already working together on streamlining the Board website and operations. It was agreed that they will incorporate the development of a mobility worksheet into those efforts.

Other requests

- a. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion to accept the application of Kurt M. Johnson for reciprocity. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. Michael Smith made a motion that Darlene Nicks, LMSW, be allowed sixty days to obtain the hours needed for audit. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Valeri White made a motion that Lori Tweedell, LICSW, be allowed sixty days to obtain the hours needed for audit. Amy Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey made a motion that Brittany Renkenberger be awarded reciprocity at the LBSW level. Michael Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PIP Applications

- a. Laticia Raven Duhon Babineaux – Approved Social Casework, Approved Clinical Social Work, Denied Community Organization, Approved Social Work Administration
- b. Jessica Coppage – Approved Social Casework, Approved Clinical Social Work, Denied Community Organization, Approved Social Work Administration
- c. Betty Cousins – Approved Social Casework and Approved Clinical Social Work
- d. Stephanie Dettloff – Approved Clinical Social Work and Denied Social Work Administration
- e. Sparkle L. Escott – Approved Social Casework, Approved Clinical Social Work, and Approved Social Work Administration
- f. Toni D. Lassiter – Approved Social Casework and Approved Clinical Social Work
- g. Jo-Ann Levy – Approved Clinical Social Work
- h. Ruth Ann McCarty – Approved Social Casework and Approved Clinical Social Work
- i. Savannah Paige Gingrich Parish – Approved Social Casework, Approved Clinical Social Work, and Denied Social Work Administration

Requesting Reconsideration or Addition

- j. Mary Phillips Brooks – Approved Social Work Administration
- k. Ashley Nicole May – Denied Community Organization and Denied Social Work Administration

Proposed dates for next Board Meeting:

April 19, 2018, at 9:30am – Interviews will be held for Executive Director position.

May 11, 2018, at 9:30am – Next Board meeting.

Michael Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:16am. Valeri White seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Chair



Sharrie Cranford

Board Secretary



Amy Smith