

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. in the Hudson Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Chair Dr. Dawn Hall Apgar.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW (Chair)
Maureen Braun Scalera, MSW, LCSW (Vice-Chair)
Paul J. St. Onge, Esq. (left at 12:51 p.m.)
Michelle Borden, MSW, LCSW, CSWM, DRCC
Deanna Sperling, MS, RN
Patricia McKernan, MSW, LSW (arrived at 10:04 a.m.)
Philip McCabe, CSW, CAS, CDVC, DRCC (arrived at 9:55 p.m.)
Elizabeth Manley, MSW, LSW

Absent:

Lisa Eileen Cox, Ph.D., LCSW
Carolyn Bradley, Ph.D., LCSW, LMFT, LCADC

Also attending:

Jodi Krugman, Deputy Attorney General
J. Michael Walker, Executive Director
Michela Ross, Government Rep
Theresa Brundage, Administrative Staff

Announcement of Quorum

Chair Dr. Apgar announced that a quorum did not exist at 9:41 a.m. and that the Board would be working in Committee. Chair Dr. Apgar announced the presence of a quorum at 9:56 a.m after the arrival of Board member, Philip McCabe.

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing to the Office of the Secretary of State, The Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Record and The Courier Post.

III. **SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBER**

DAG Krugman, swore in new Board member Ms. Elizabeth Manley, LSW. Ms. Manley was appointed by the Department of Children and Families and replaces Elizabeth Bowman, LSW.

III. **REVIEW OF MINUTES**

A. **December 10, 2014 Public Session Minutes**

Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Braun Scalera, the Board voted to approve the December 10, 2014 minutes as presented. Voting in favor: all.

IV. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Walker informed the Board of the influx of applications being processed by Board staff including:

A. **Reinstatement applications** - most reinstatements are due to licensees not receiving their renewal notice because they failed to update their address with the Board within 30 days of moving

B. **LSW applications** - applicants are currently in the last semester of their Master's program

C. **LCSW, LSW, CSW applications** - have increased because of December/January graduations

Executive Director Walker informed the Board that staff was allotted overtime which helped with the backlog on a limited basis. Dr. Walker also informed the Board that Kim Ringler has been appointed as the new Deputy Director for the Division of Consumer Affairs.

V. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. **Mary Jean Weston, LCSW, Assistant Executive Director, NASW-NJ** - Ms. Weston came before the Board with a series of questions:

i. **Question from the Collaborative continuing education (CE) approving entity** - Ms. Weston inquired if the Board would accept written documents for continuing education credits. *The Board informed Ms. Weston that when the Board reviewed these types of courses in the past it asked the continuing education provider for its thought process for its rationale for computing hours awarded for CE's.*

ii. **Managed Care/Insurance Company requests for information** - Ms. Weston presented the Board with a letter from the National Association of Social Workers - New Jersey Chapter (NASW-NJ), the New Jersey Society for Clinical Social

Work (NJSCSW), and the Clinical Social Work Guild 49 OPEIU (CSWG 49) recommending the following:

- that the Board make no changes to the NJ Social Work regulations related to sub-section N.J.A.C. 13:44G-12.4.
- that the representatives of these organizations prepare and send a letter to each Managed Care/Insurance company explaining N.J.A.C. 13:44G-12.4, and asking the company to comply with this regulation
- that the representatives of these organizations develop a single page information sheet for social workers to send to any Managed Care/Insurance company that requests information from them.

iii. Clarification of the required Continuing Education (CE's) Requirement:

Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Manley, the Board voted to clarify that the five (5) ethics and three (3) social and cultural competency CE's required continuing education credits required for each biennial renewal period may either be included in the "clinical" or "general" categories. The Board also voted to clarify that if a licensee was granted licensure in the second half of the biennial period they are required to complete 3 ethics credits and 2 social and cultural competency credits. Voting in favor: all.

The following members of the Public were in attendance, but did not comment:

- A. Brandon Green, Student Intern, NASW-NJ
- B. Kerri Johnson, Student Intern, NASW-NJ
- C. Karun Singh, Ph.D., Director MSW Rutgers Newark

VI. REVIEW OF CLINICAL SUPERVISORS' CREDENTIALS

Upon motion by Ms. Braun Scalera, seconded by Ms. McKernan, the Board voted to approve the supervisors as presented with the exception of three (3) applicants in which the Board voted to request additional documentation from. Voting in favor: all.

VII. VOTE ON CANDIDATES PROPOSED FOR CERTIFICATION/LICENSURE

Upon motion made by Ms. Braun Scalera, seconded by Ms. Sperling, the Board voted to approve the following candidates as qualified in their category based on review of their application documents and in accordance with the Statute and Regulations and subject to review in the cases of pending criminal history background checks. Voting in favor: all.

LCSW APPLICATIONS:

Criminal History Background Check - COMPLETED:

Gina Abbondante
Kirsten A. Adams
Michelle S. Dinneen
Shannon A. Emmanuel
Elyse A. Greenbaum
Marnie L. Grossman
Allison D. Hartman
Erica E. Jungels
Sarah K. Moore
Ann C. O'Grady
Victoria Pena-Cardinali
Elizabeth Rogalin
Lisa C. Ruane
Altgarcia Santa-Pichardo
J.B. Smith
Kimberly A. Sorgenti

Criminal History Background Check - PENDING:

Christoher M. Asmann
Brian R. Blakes

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Nicholas A. Bizzarro
Laura J. Chinnici
Corrie M. Clanton
Danielle S. Dinneen
Taylor L. Guthrie
Andrea Nudelman
Maria A. Santiago
Alison Schwartz
Maria Stone
Melissa S. Thompson
Barabara J. Vaclavik

LSW APPLICATIONS:

Criminal History Background Check - COMPLETED:

Melissa Addonizio
Aliya Austin
Maribel Blancovitch-Rodgers
Syreeta Bratton
Katherine Burghart
Rodneisha Dixon
Marilyn Gerber
Brooke Glassman
Kacey Griffin
Zsanlie Hakspiel
Mareena Hanna
Moneefah Jackson
Elise Johnson
Sarah Longino
Danielle Low
Diane Maiello
Jeannine Marchione
Andrea Murray
Tara Palmer
Laura Peoples
Donna Puglia
Jamie Secol
Kristina Sepe
Shamyra Shaw
Stella Stempel
Sngela Smith

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Ciara Tamburello
Joshua White
Erin Walker
Heike Zelnefer

Criminal History Background Check - PENDING:

James Alfano
Shae Cali
Amanda Cardona
Sandra Chalarca-Torres
Yudelka Column-Cordero
Bianca Codrdero
Sarah Damon
Regina Diamond
Julia Basy Gorlin
Darline Jerez
Lauren Joyce
Nicola Laury
Joseph McGready, III
Mercy Mwaura
Deborah Pedrick
Tara Redmond
Amy Richter
Soroh Rosenblatt
Rebecca Stone
Markita Tabb
Kereecha Thomspn
Rebecca Weiss
Dorothea Wynter

CSW APPLICATIONS:

Criminal History Background Check - COMPLETED:

Sheri L. Forker
Carmen G. Letren
Christina L. Ramirez

Criminal History Background Check - PENDING:

Veronica R. Fogg
Chalyn N. Hickson
Brenda Irwin
Maria C. Jones-Reese

Sofia A. Karaman
Valerie M. Myricks
Megan M. O'Neill
Sheandar V. Peterkin
Isabel Rivera
Suzette Sclafani

VIII. CONTINUING EDUCATION

A. Continuing Education (CE's) Review

None to review.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

- A. NASW approval entity application – *The Board reviewed the NASW–National Chapter's application to be a continuing education approving entity. Upon motion by Ms. Braun Scalera, seconded by Mr. St. Onge, the Board voted to request revised draft documentation regarding how New Jersey would be represented. The Board voted to continue its review of the matter at its February 11, 2015 meeting through conference call. Voting in favor: all.*
- B. Debra Wentz, Chief Executive Officer , New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addictions Agencies (NJAMHAA)- *The Board reviewed Ms. Wentz's December 19, 2014 e-mail in favor of Proposed New Rule N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.6. Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Braun Scalera, the Board voted to accept this as informational. Voting in favor: all.*
- C. Assembly, No. 4009 - *This bill clarifies that the Division of Mental Health Advocacy in the Office of the Public Defender is required to represent indigent patients in all mental health commitment proceedings, whether related to inpatient or out patient treatment. Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Braun Scalera, the Board voted to accept this as informational. Voting in favor: all.*
- D. Assembly, No. 4001 – *This bill authorizes the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the public body at a public meeting. This*

bill also permits discretionary court award of certain fees and costs to the public body. Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Braun Scalera, the Board voted to accept this as informational. Voting in favor: all.

- E. Edward Jankowski, LCSW** – The Board reviewed Mr. Jankowski’s progress report as submitted by his supervisor, Ms. Judith Lagani, LCSW. Upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Ms. Braun Scalera, the Board voted to accept this as informational. Voting in favor: all.

XI. MEETING DATES FOR 2015

please note: all meetings will begin at 9:30 a.m.

February 11, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

March 11, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

April 8, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

May 13, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

June 10, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

July 8, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

August 12, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

September 9, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

October 14, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

November 18, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

December 9, 2015 - Hudson Conference Room, 6th FL

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Public session closed at 11:01 a.m. and the Board moved to executive session upon motion by Ms. McKernan, seconded by Mr. St. Onge. The Board re-entered public session at 1:55 p.m. to adjourn the meeting by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW
Chair