

**Board of Social Worker Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Friday, December 12, 2025**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Butler, Board Chair (in person)
Benjamin Strick, Complaint Officer (remote)
Angela Fileccia (remote)
Leslie Lufkin (remote)
Christopher Leighton, Public Member (in person)

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lee-Andra D'Attilio, Vice Chair

STAFF PRESENT

John Belisle, Assistant Attorney General
Phillip Mantis, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Tarr, Board Manager
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Cecile Sirois, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Katy Getchell, Professional Licensing Supervisor
Penny Vaillancourt, Director

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Linda Butler, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

Leslie Lufkin left the meeting.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the November 14, 2025 minutes.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: 4 in favor.

Leslie Lufkin returned to the meeting.

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

2025-SOC-20698 Heather Borst Started at 9:21 a.m. and ended at 11:13 a.m.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to find the licensee in violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(3) and 5 M.R.S. § 5301(2)(A), 10

M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(3) and 5 M.R.S. § 5301(2)(B), and 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(3) and 5 M.R.S. § 5301(2)(D), and preliminarily deny the license.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Benjamin Strick.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to find the licensee in violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(1) and Board Rules Chapter 16 § (3)(1)(B)(3), and deny the license.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Benjamin Strick.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to find the licensee in violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(2) and Board Rules Chapter 16 §3(3)(G), and NASW Code of Ethics §3.05, and deny the license.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Benjamin Strick.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to find the licensee in violation of 10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(2) and Board Rules Chapter 16 §3(3)(G), and NASW Code of Ethics §4.04, and deny the license.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Benjamin Strick.

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Christopher Leighton to allow the Board Chair to sign the decision and order without further board review.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 recused: Benjamin Strick.

REPORTS

Report 1

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Benjamin Strick to file a complaint.

Vote: 5 in favor.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2025-SOC-20257 and 2025-SOC-20258

A motion was made by Leslie Lufkin and seconded by Angela Fileccia to dismiss due to lack of evidence of violation of Laws and Rules.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

2025-SOC-20528

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Leslie Lufkin to table due to a lack of quorum with Angela Fileccia's recusal and Benjamin Strick's abstention.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2025-SOC-20528

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Leslie Lufkin to dismiss without prejudice.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick, 1 recused: Angela Fileccia.

2025-SOC-20676

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to dismiss and issue a letter of guidance, citing NASW Code of Ethics 1.17(E) (termination of services), which will stay in the licensee's file for 6 months.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

2025-SOC-20706

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Angela Fileccia to dismiss due to lack of evidence of violation of Laws and Rules.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick, 1 recused: Linda Butler.

COMPLAINT ITEMS – OTHER

2024-SOC-19940 Request for Amendment

Board chose to deny the request for amendment.

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2022-SOC-18703 Reports

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Benjamin Strick to accept the reports as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2024-SOC-20014 Reports

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Leslie Lufkin to accept the reports as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2024-SOC-20119 Reports

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Benjamin Strick to reject the reports and request that they be submitted on the required form.

Vote: 5 in favor.

APPLICATION REVIEWS

Initial Application: Nicole Mesimer

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Angela Fileccia to preliminarily deny the application and allow the applicant to withdraw the application in lieu of denying, and request that they apply for the LSX license.

A revised motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Benjamin Strick to table the application and request board staff reach out to the applicant and suggest they apply for the LSX license as a means to qualify for the LSW license.

Vote: 5 in favor.

Initial Application: Troy Welch

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Angela Fileccia to find the licensee to be sufficiently rehabilitated to warrant public trust and approve the application.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Linda Butler.

Initial Application: Ryan Jones

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Christopher Leighton to preliminarily deny the application due to criminal justice not meeting the educational requirements and allow the applicant to withdraw the application in lieu of denial.

Vote: 5 in favor.

Initial Application: Cindi Hanning

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to consider the education substantially equivalent and approve the application.

Vote: 5 in favor.

Initial Application: Jassen Bailey

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to table and request course description for courses listed on the educational worksheet.

Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed: Benjamin Strick.

BOARD MANAGER'S REPORT

Mike Tarr, Board Manager, announced his position as Board Manager to the Board. Mike told the Board that he will be working on process improvement and working on hiring more staff. Mike reminded the Board that the FOAA training needs to be completed.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Angela Fileccia asked about the legislation process and if the Board would review changes. Penny Vaillancourt explained the process of making changes to statute through legislation and that the Board would be able to review changes prior to them being implemented.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Benjamin Strick to adjourn the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Vote: 5 in favor.