



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL & FINANCIAL REGULATION
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL & OCCUPATIONAL REGULATION
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE
76 NORTHERN AVENUE
GARDINER, MAINE 04345

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

**Board of Social Worker Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Friday, February 9, 2024**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lee-Andra D'Attilio, Vice Chair
Benjamin Strick, Complaint Officer
Angela Fileccia
Christopher Leighton, Public Member

MEMBERS TARDY

Linda Butler, Board Chair, joined the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

STAFF PRESENT

Samantha Morgan, Assistant Attorney General
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Jessica Cirello, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Lee-Andra D'Attilio, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the January 12, 2024 minutes.

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Angela Fileccia to approve the minutes as written.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Lee-Andra D'Attilio.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2023-SOC-19404

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Angela Fileccia to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing NASW Code of Ethics' primary mission of a social work and discussing power dynamics and being mindful of the role of social workers is to help

clients access community supports and outreach, that will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

2023-SOC-19478

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Christopher Leighton to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

2023-SOC-19484

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Christopher Leighton to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick, 1: recused: Angela Fileccia.

2023-SOC-19595

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick, 1 recused: Angela Fileccia.

2023-SOC-19553

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Angela Fileccia to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing NASW Code of Ethics' 4.03 (private conduct), 5.01A (integrity of profession) and 1.06 (conflict of interest) and discuss social media usage, that will stay in the licensee's file for 2 years.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

Linda Butler joined the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

2023-SOC-19590

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Christopher Leighton to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 abstained: Benjamin Strick and Linda Butler.

2023-SOC-19598

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

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

2023-SOC-19603

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules.

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

2023-SOC-19622

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Linda Butler to dismiss this complaint due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, citing Board rules Chapter 16 (1) (3) G (supervisors' responsibilities), that will stay in the licensee's file for 3 years.

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

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2022-SOC-18122 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Linda Butler to accept the report as submitted and end this licensee's probation.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2023-SOC-19184; 19235 Proposed Supervisor & Continuing Education Approval

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to approve the proposed supervisor.

Vote: 5 in favor.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Initial Application: Olivia Chance

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to preliminarily deny this application based on the prior license discipline and the applicant not currently qualifying for Maine's LCSW license based on Board rules Chapter 13 (5) D, Chapter 13

(5) B and Chapter 13 (5) D (2). The applicant will be allowed to withdraw the pending LCSW application and apply for Maine's LMSW-cc license, which will also be preliminarily denied based on the prior license discipline.

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

WAIVER REQUEST

Review of Decision Denying Request: Marit Wilson

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Angela Fileccia to accept the waiver decision as drafted.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 abstained: Lee-Andra D'Attilio and Linda Butler.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed the current bills related to social worker licensure that are being discussed by the legislators. This includes LD 1990 which would remove the licensure requirement for examination, except for clinical-level examination. There will be work sessions for LD 1990 and the social worker licensure compact later this month. Kristina will also be involved in the hearings scheduled for these topics on 2/14/24 at 10 a.m.

Kristina sent Board members Maine's current social worker licensure totals and will work on providing Board members the data regarding in-state and out of state providers.

Board members discussed adding rulemaking discussions on a future agenda. Board members discussed the concerns arising with Board rules' including "paid social work" and some employers using a fee for service model, meaning these licensees are only paid for direct client contact hours. Board rules Chapter 13 (5) also includes "compensated financially" for LMSW-cc and LCSW applicants. Board members would like to also include Christopher McLaughlin, from Maine NASW, in this future rulemaking discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

Vote: 5 in favor.