



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, June 14, 2024**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Linda Butler, Board Chair
Benjamin Strick, Complaint Officer
Angela Fileccia
Christopher Leighton, Public Member

MEMBERS TARDY

Lee-Andra D'Attilio, Vice Chair (arrived at 9:07 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

Board Chair, Linda Butler, called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Lee-Andra D'Attilio arrived at 9:07 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the May 10, 2024 minutes.

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

Vote: 5 in favor.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2023-SOC-19453

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Angela Fileccia to enter executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §405(6)(F) and 10 M.R.S. §8003-B (discussing confidential information).

Vote: 5 in favor

Executive session 9:13 a.m.-9:41 a.m.

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D’Attilio to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, siting ASWB Code of Ethics 1.06C (dual relationships), with: a warning; 18 months of probation which will include 1 hour of consultation a month (which can be remote) with a Board-approved Maine licensed clinical mental health professional who will submit quarterly reports and a final recommendation to the Board for review; and 4 hours of synchronous continuing education on dual relationships.

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

2023-SOC-19610

A motion was made by Linda Butler 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, siting ASWB Code of Ethics 1.07M (electronic communication) and Board rules Chapter 16 1(3)B (confidentiality) and discussing text message communication and using HIPPA compliant communication, which will stay in the licensee’s file for 2 years.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 opposed: Lee-Andra D’Attilio, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

Break 10:33 a.m.-10:42 a.m.

2023-SOC-19610, 2023-SOC-19623 and 2024-SOC-19814

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Angela Fileccia to rescind the prior vote for 2023-SOC-19610, dismiss complaints 2023-SOC-19610, 2023-SOC-19623 and 2024-SOC-19814 due to the lack of evidence of a violation of Board laws or rules and issue a letter of guidance, siting ASWB Code of Ethics 1.07M (electronic communication), 1.12 (derogatory language), 1.03A (informed consent) and 1.04D (competency), which will stay in the licensee’s file for 2 years.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 opposed: Lee-Andra D’Attilio, 1 abstained: Benjamin Strick.

2024-SOC-19816

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 and issue a letter of guidance, siting ASWB Code of Ethics 1.06C (conflict of interest), which will stay in the licensee’s file for 1 year.

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

2024-SOC-19822

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.

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

2024-SOC-19823

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia 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 and direct Board staff to refer this issue to Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman and the Child Protective Services' Chief Attorney General's division office.

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

2024-SOC-19951

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Angela Fileccia to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing ASWB Code of Ethics 4.03 (private conduct), 4.05A (impairment), Board rules Chapter 16 1(3)D (impairment) and 10 M.R.S. 803(5-A)A(9) (failing to meet consent agreement terms), with a revocation.

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

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2022-SOC-18742 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to accept the reports as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2022-SOC-18789 Quarterly Report Review

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

Vote: 5 in favor.

2023-SOC-18938 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to accept the reports as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2023-SOC-19184; 19235 Quarterly Report Review and Continuing Education Course Approval

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Angela Fileccia to accept the reports and continuing education course as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2023-SOC-19439 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to accept the reports as submitted.

Vote: 5 in favor.

2023-SOC-19689 Proposed Consent Agreement and Proposed Practice Consultant

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to accept the proposed consent agreement and approve the proposed practice consultant.

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

APPLICATION REVIEWS

Initial Application: Greg Marley

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to grant the pending LMSW-cc application.

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, emailed Board members the current licensure numbers and discussed the continued increase in applications. There are two new Board staff members, one of which is solely processing social worker applications. Applications are currently being reviewed within 2-3 weeks of submission.

Board staff have been working on updating this Board's OPOR webpages. There has been an estimated 60% decrease in the number of commonly asked licensure

questions received since the webpages' updates. OPOR is also working on updating the entire OPOR website.

Kristina has been working on improving ALMS' report creation so reports contain the necessary information without the need for manual data editing.

Kristina will forward Angela information regarding the Social Work Compact as it becomes available.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Benjamin Strick to adjourn the meeting at 12:22 p.m.

Vote: 5 in favor.