



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, March 8, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**STAFF PRESENT**

Samantha Morgan, Assistant Attorney General  
Rebekah Smith, Hearing Officer  
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 9:08 a.m.

**MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

Review and approval of the February 9, 2024 minutes.

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

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

**ADJUDICATORY HEARING**

2022-SOC-18759 Eric Thompson

**Hearing started at 9:15 a.m.**

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Christopher Leighton that the first allegation (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(1) for the practice of misrepresentation, fraud or deceit in connection with services rendered as a social worker, as defined in Board Rules, Chapter 16 § 1(1)(B)(2) by intentionally misrepresenting the type or status of

license held or qualifications to practice) was proven by the preponderance of the evidence.

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

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio that the second allegation (10 M.R.S. § 8003(5-A)(A)(2) for violation of an applicable code of ethics as adopted in Board Rules, Chapter 16 § 1(4), specifically the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics § 4.04: social workers should not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, or deception) was proven by the preponderance of the evidence.

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

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio that the third allegation (10 M.R.S. § (5-A)(A)(2) for violation of an applicable code of ethics as adopted in Board Rules, Chapter 16 § 1(4), specifically the NASW Code of Ethics § 4.06(c): social workers should ensure that their representations to clients, agencies, and the public of professional qualifications, credentials, education, competence, affiliations, services provided, or results to be achieved are accurate. Social workers should claim only those relevant professional credentials they actually possess and take steps to correct any inaccuracies or misrepresentations of their credentials by others) was proven by the preponderance of the evidence.

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

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to issue a reprimand, a civil penalty of \$750 per violation (\$2250 total) to be paid within 6 months, and a revocation of license.

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

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Christopher Leighton to delegate the authority to the Board Chair to sign this Decision and Order outside of a regular Board meeting.

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

**Hearing ended at 11:06 a.m.**

**COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS**  
2023-SOC-19656

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia 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, discussing the necessity of a clean, safe, and insect-free environment for clients, composing HIPPA compliant and detailed documentation, maintaining confidentiality for clients, the need for social workers to always engage with clients in a therapeutic manner, and suggesting the licensee receive consultation regarding the issues raised in this complaint, which will stay in the licensee's file for 5 years.

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

2023-SOC-19681

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-19697

A motion was made by Linda Butler 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, 1 recused: Angela Fileccia.**

### **COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS**

2023-SOC-18877; 18878 Request to Modify Consent Agreement

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Angela Fileccia to modify the original Consent Agreement to allow the licensee to complete 12 hours of synchronous continuing education training in ethics or a 3 college credit hour asynchronous course in ethics and extend the deadline another 12 months.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

2023-SOC-19229 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Angela Fileccia to accept the report as written.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

2023-SOC-19439 Quarterly Report Review

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to accept the report as written.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**

### **APPLICATION REVIEWS**

Initial Application: Erica (Joyce) Smith

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to preliminarily deny this application and allow the applicant to withdraw her application if she wishes.

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

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, discussed current legislative bills that may affect this Board. LD 227, a bill to ensure access to care and to protect reproductive and gender affirming care in Maine, is a shield law that may conflict with the Social Work Compact regarding disciplinary data sharing and complaint investigations.

LD 1990, a bill to remove the examination requirement for social worker licensure, was passed as a legislative study. This study will review all of Maine's social worker licensure requirements. Kristina expects to be part of this study panel.

LD2140, the Social Work Compact, was passed. Either a Board Administrator or a Board member needs to be part of the compact commission. Kristina will forward Board members information regarding the development of this commission. If any Board members wish to be involved in this commission, they should contact Kristina.

Kristina discussed recent Board staff recruitment activities and hires.

Board staff, Michael Tarr, shared the recent updates made to the Board's OPOR website.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Benjamin Strick to adjourn the meeting at 1:59 p.m.

**Vote: 5 in favor.**