



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

Joan F. Cohen
Commissioner

**Board of Social Worker Licensure
Public Board Meeting
Friday, March 14, 2025**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Angela Fileccia

STAFF PRESENT

Mark Terison, Hearing Officer
Megan Hudson-MacRae, Assistant Attorney General
Samantha Andrews, Assistant Attorney General
Kristina Halvorsen, Board Administrator
George Morgan, Board Investigator
Cecile Sirois, Professional Licensing Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Linda Butler, called the meeting to order at 9:21 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the February 14, 2025 minutes.

A motion was made by Lee D'Attilio and seconded by Christopher Leighton to approve the minutes as written.

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

ADJUDICATORY HEARING

2022-SOC-18717 Philip Gleason

Hearing started at 9:28 a.m.

A motion was made by Lee D’Attilio and seconded by Leslie Lufkin that the first 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 § 1.06(c): Social workers should not engage in dual or multiple relationships with clients or former clients in which there is a risk of exploitation or potential harm to the client. In instances when dual or multiple relationships are unavoidable, social workers should take steps to protect clients and are responsible for setting clear, appropriate, and culturally sensitive boundaries. (Dual or multiple relationships occur when social workers relate to clients in more than one relationship, whether professional, social, or business. Dual or multiple relationships can occur simultaneously or consecutively.) was proven by the preponderance of the evidence.

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

A motion was made by Lee D’Attilio and seconded by Christopher Leighton 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 § 1.09(c): (Social workers should not engage in sexual activities or sexual contact with former clients because of the potential harm to the client. If social workers engage in conduct contrary to this prohibition or claim that an exception to this prohibition is warranted because of extraordinary circumstances, it is social workers—not their clients—who assume the full burden of demonstrating that the former client has not been exploited, coerced, or manipulated, intentionally or unintentionally) 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 D’Attilio that the third 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 Lee D’Attilio and seconded by Christopher Leighton that the fourth 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(5)(B), by (engaging in sexual misconduct with Client A) 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 D'Attilio to issue a revocation of license.

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

A motion was made by Lee D'Attilio and seconded by Leslie Lufkin 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.

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2024-SOC-19940

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Christopher Leighton to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing NASW Code of Ethics 1.04A (competent), 1.06C (dual relationships), 3.04A (accurate records), and 5.01A (standard of practice), with a reprimand and 24 months of probation with monthly consultation, meeting twice a month for the first 6 months, with a Board-approved Maine clinical mental health licensee who will submit quarterly and final reports to the Board for review.

Vote: 3 in favor, 2 abstained: Benjamin Strick, Lee D'Attilio.

2024-SOC-20119

A motion was made by Linda Butler and seconded by Lee D'Attilio to set this matter for an adjudicatory hearing and offer a consent agreement, in lieu of a hearing, citing NASW Code of Ethics 1.06C (dual relationships), with a warning and 4 months of probation with monthly consultation with a Board-approved Maine clinical mental health licensee who will submit quarterly reports, and a final report to include whether the supervisor recommends end of probation or to continue probation to the Board for review.

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

2024-SOC-20159

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Lee D'Attilio to dismiss as the individual was not licensed at the time of conduct. Refer to Adult Protective Services and Guardianship.

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

2024-SOC-20174

A motion was made by Lee 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.

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

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2023-SOC-19184; 19235 Quarterly Report Review

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

Vote: 5 in favor.

2024-SOC-20231 Continuing Education Review

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick and seconded by Christopher Leighton to approve the continuing education.

Vote: 5 in favor.

APPLICATION REVIEWS

Renewal Application: Hannah Williams

A motion was made by Lee D'Attilio and seconded by Benjamin Strick to dismiss this complaint, to issue a letter of guidance, citing 32 M.R.S. §8003-G(2)(B) Duty to require certain information from applicants and licensees. All licensees and applicants for licensure to report in writing to the office no later than 10 days after the change or event, as the case may be: Criminal conviction, which will stay in the licensee's file for 5 years, and to grant the renewal.

Vote: 5 in favor.

RULEMAKING DISCUSSION

Board members further discussed potential rule changes. Board members discussed potentially proposing law changes to the current requirements for conditional licenses.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, announced her retirement on April 30, 2025.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christopher Leighton and seconded by Leslie Lufkin to adjourn the meeting at 3:51 p.m.

Vote: 5 in favor.