



Janet T. Mills
Governor

STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
Board of Social Worker Licensure
35 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0035

Anne L. Head
Commissioner

Minutes
Maine Board of Social Worker Licensure
September 8, 2023 Board Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Christopher Leighton, Public Member
Karen Lemoine

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 9:27 a.m.

MINUTES REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Review and approval of the minutes of August 11, 2023.

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Linda Butler to approve the minutes as written.

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

COMPLAINT PRESENTATIONS

2023-SOC-18937

OFFICES LOCATED AT: 76 NORTHERN AVENUE, GARDINER, MAINE

PHONE : (207)624-8626 (VOICE)

TTY users: call Maine Relay 711

FAX : (207)624-8637

A motion was made by Lee-Andra D'Attilio and seconded by Angela Fileccia to table this complaint case until the next Board meeting due to the lack of quorum with Linda Butler's recusal.

Vote: 2 in favor, 1 abstained: Linda Butler.

2023-SOC-19140

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

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

2023-SOC-19150

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

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

2023-SOC-19152

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

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

2023-SOC-19225

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

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

2023-SOC-19229

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 with a warning, in lieu of a hearing, citing violations of Code of Ethics 3.04 A (plan records) and 1.08 A (client access to records), along with a 12-month probation period consisting of at least 1 hour of consultation a month, with a Board-approved consultant, who will focus on documentation, treatment plans, creating SMART goals and documenting client progress and who will review at least 2 of the licensee's deidentified and unique treatment plans per quarter (total of 8 unique treatment plans reviewed over probation period).

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

2023-SOC-19232

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, with a revocation of licensure and reprimand, in lieu of a hearing, siting violations of Board rules Chapter 18 (1) B (telehealth) along with Code of Ethics 1.03A (informed consent), 1.12 (derogatory language), 3.04 A, B, C & D (client records) and 4.06 C (accurate representation).

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

COMPLAINT COMPLIANCE ITEMS

2023-SOC-18881 Consent Agreement and Proposed Consultant Review

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Lee-Andra D'Attilio to approve the minor proposed edit in the Consent Agreement and to accept the proposed consultant.

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

2022-SOC-18789 Reports

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

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

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Board Chair, Linda Butler, discussed UNH's telehealth certificate program with Board members. Board Administrator, Kristina Halvorsen, shared Maine's social worker licensure application data from 2018 to present and an estimate for the remainder of 2023. Board staff, Michael Tarr, further discussed the amount of social worker applications for licensure, along with the volume of emails, phone calls and other communications regarding licensure.

PUBLIC COMMENT

N/A

RULEMAKING: DISCUSSION FOR FUTURE RULEMAKING

- a. Ch. 10. Definitions
- b. Ch. 13. Licensing
- c. Ch. 14. Continuing Education
- d. Ch. 15. Scope of Practice

A motion was made by Benjamin Strick to include field instruction as part of an accredited social work education, under Chapter 14's teaching, writing and independent study section, which is limited to a total of 10 hours. There was no second for this motion. Motion died.

A motion was made by Angela Fileccia and seconded by Linda Butler to make no changes in Chapter 14's teaching, writing and independent study section.

Vote: 2 in favor, 2 opposed: Benjamin Strick and Lee-Andra D'Attilio.

Rulemaking was tabled until the next Board meeting when more Board members are present.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.