



Mississippi Autism Board
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 359 – 6792

Special Meeting
Mississippi Autism Board Special Meeting
September 16, 2022
Woolfolk Building, Jackson, MS
12:30 p.m.

MINUTES

A Special Meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Thursday, September 16, 2022, at 12:32 p.m. by board member, Dr. Emily Johnson. The meeting took place at the Woolfolk Building in Jackson, MS.

Board Members Present: Emily Johnson, Ph.D. (Chair), Neelima Duncan, Ph.D., Kasee Stratton-Gadke, Ph.D. (via Zoom), Krystal Thurman, Ed.D. (Secretary), and Sheila Williamson, Ph.D.

Others Present: Stacie Sharp (Board Administrator), Alexis Morris (Special Assistant to the Attorney General, MS Attorney General’s Office), James Rankin (Attorney General’s Office – Consumer Affairs), and Senator Nicole Boyd (via Zoom)

Meeting called at 12:32 p.m. All Board Members were present, and quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes:

Thurman made a motion to accept the minutes pending additional information pertaining to the updates. The motion carried and the minutes were approved upon final updates.

First Matter of Business: Board Administrator Report

License management program building is ongoing. There are technical issues related to a firewall and that is being worked on.

Second Matter of Business: Executive Session

Johnson welcomed attendees. Williamson made a motion to enter Executive Session at 12:40 p.m. All were in favor. Johnson made a motion to move to executive session. All Board members were in favor. Williamson made a motion to enter executive session for the review of oral examinations. Duncan seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor. The Board entered Executive Session at 12:41 p.m. Johnson announced the beginning of Executive Session.

- To review test results that are exempt from public access

Williamson motioned to table the issues and return to open session at 1:03 p.m. Duncan seconded, all were in favor and the Board returned to open session at 1:03 p.m.

At 1:03 pm, Williamson made a motion to move out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Duncan with no discussion. Gadke-Stratton, Johnson, Thurman, Duncan, and Williamson voted in favor of leaving Executive Session. Johnson announced the return to open session.

Third Matter of Business: Investigation Reports and Procedures

Johnson discussed concerns that have been brought to the Board's attention. Situations have arisen where parents have complained. Concerns brought to attention include: taking advantage of vulnerable populations; abandonment of clients; minimal hour of treatment based on insurance, not based on a client's needs and individual treatment plan; parents are receiving bills from multiple billing companies for treatment from one company; reports of a company firing anyone who reported ethical violation.

The Board is seeking guidance for handling egregious issues that are beyond the scope of ethical practice considerations overseen by the Board. It was suggested to formally notify Department of Insurance and the Attorney General's Office. Contact U.S. Attorney's Office. Send formal letter to Insurance Commissioner. Invite Consumer Protection Division to assist with the dissemination of alerts to parents about companies that are taking advantage of fraudulent activities. U.S. DOL should be contacted for employment specific issues.

Fourth Matter of Business: Executive Session

Williamson made motion to move into closed session. All were in favor. Thurman motioned to move into Executive Session. Duncan seconded the motion. Duncan, Johnson, Stratton-Gadke, Thurman, and Williamson voted in favor of moving into Executive Session. Johnson announced the start of Executive Session at 3:17 p.m. for the purpose of:

- Continuation of oral examination results
- Review of investigation reports

Duncan made motion; Williamson seconded. Duncan, Johnson, Stratton-Gadke, Thurman, and Williamson voted in favor of leaving Executive Session. Johnson announced the return to open session at 4:05 p.m.

Fifth Matter of Business: Report of the Oral Examination Committee

Based on the recommendation of the oral examination committee, Johnson presented the following for licensure approval as licensed behavior analysts or licensed assistant behavior analysts in the State of Mississippi (license number followed by name).

220031 Belinda Harret

220032	Jessica Nicklay
220033	Haley Fredrick
220034	Julia Nusbaum
220035	Mary McGee
220037	Veronica Diaz

The aforementioned licenses will be valid from 09.16.2022 through 09.15.2025.

Sixth Matter of Business: Investigative Reports

The Board determined the following action based on the investigative reports:

20216	Closed without further action.
20217	Investigation continuing.
20218	Investigation continuing.
20219	Investigation continuing.

Seventh Matter of Business: BAAMS Conference

Board members have been invited to speak at the BAAMS Conference on Monday, October 24, 2022, from 3:30 pm to 4:00 p.m. Duncan, Johnson, Stratton-Gadke, and Williamson plan to represent the Board at the conference.

Eight Matter of Business: RBT Registration

Per Mississippi Autism Board Rules and Regulations 9.3 e, the Board will begin auditing supervision records within the next month.

Adjournment

The next MS Autism Board meeting will take place in person in Jackson, MS, on November 18, 2022. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.