



Mississippi Autism Board
P.O. Box 136
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
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Regular Meeting
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting
May 20, 2021
Zoom
(COVID-19 Precaution)

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 11:49 a.m. by board member, Dr. Emily Johnson. The meeting took place via Zoom in response to the MS Department of Health social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

Others Present: Stacie Sharp (Board Administrator)

Approval of Minutes:

Johnson made a motion to approve minutes as submitted from March 19, 2021 with minor edits. Williamson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from 03.19.2021 were approved.

Board Administrator Report:

Stacie Sharp, Board administrator, reported the receipt of numerous CEs and fees for RBTs. Website updates have mostly been completed and current documentation and forms are in the process of being added. The list of licensed behavior analysts will be updated with this meeting’s licensing information. The website has been updated to reflect that all applicants must submit CE and licensing documentation by mail rather than email.

First Matter of Business: Board Financial Report/Budget Update

Johnson spoke about next fiscal year budget. At this date, it is assumed MAB will remain level funded at \$13,000 for FY22. MAB anticipates the receipt of additional funds from fees. Williamson suggested MAB explore a data base to ease the collection and approval of continuing education submissions. MAB may also explore assigning a registration number to

RBTs depending on whether it is allowable. Johnson offered to speak with ProsonITech prior to July MAB meeting to determine costs involved with the creation of a database. Stratton-Gadke mentioned the challenge of high cost quotes received in the past for creating the and for data encryption, continued security, and maintenance. Previous quotes did not line up with allotted budget. Johnson will speak with database developer about development and long-term packages.

Second Matter of Business: Executive Session

Williamson made a motion to enter into Executive Session. Reasons for going into executive session:

- To review test results that are exempt from public access
- To review application for BCaBA

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Williamson. Thurman seconded the motion and all were in favor. The Board entered executive session at 12:36 p.m. Johnson announced the beginning of Executive Session.

A motion was made to move out of Executive Session at 12:40 p.m. The motion was seconded with no discussion and passed with all in favor. Johnson made a motion to return to open session. Williamson seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. Guests were invited back into open session.

Second Matter of Business: Oral Exam Committee/Occupational Licensing Bill (HB 1263) Impact

The Occupational Licensing Bill (HB 1263) was passed by House and approved by the Governor. HB 1263 takes effect on July 1, 2021. Attorneys and medical doctors were exempted. The bill provides that Mississippi occupational licensing boards shall issue a license to an applicant who establishes residence in this state if the applicant holds a current license in good standing from another state, has been licensed by the other state for at least one year, and satisfies certain other conditions; to provide that the licensee issued to the applicant will be in the discipline applied for an at the same practice level as determined by the occupational licensing board.

Successful completion of a jurisprudence exam would be required. Johnson proposed a revision of examination questions prior to July exam questions to align with new regulations. Williamson will review the review past exam questions and make recommendations prior to June 15. The use of oral exams was discussed – should it be continued or eliminated; Sharp asked whether they will be offered in-person or continued via Zoom beginning in July 2021. Board members decided to offer both options in FY22. HB 1263 takes effect on July 1, 2021.

Based on recommendation of the oral examination committee, Johnson presented the following for licensure approval as a licensed behavior analyst or licensed assistant behavior

analyst in the state of Mississippi (name followed by license number). All board members were in favor.

Licensed Behavior Analysts

- LaShannon Pinkston 200029
- Patricia McCarthy 200030
- Jessica James 200031
- Channel Sanchez 200032

Assistant Licensed Behavior Analysts

- Ashley Allen 201007A

The aforementioned licenses will be effective 05-21-2021 and expire 05-21-2024.

Third Matter of Business: Investigations or Complaints

Johnson shared about a recent complaint made to Sharp regarding a potential violation. Sharp shared designated complaint form to the individual. Rules and regulations state that all complaints about a licensee are not required to be completed on a form or in a specific format. Johnson will follow up with complainant and MAB will seek guidance from Board Attorney.

Fourth Matter of Business: Board Appointments

Duncan and Stratton-Gadke’s Board terms expire June 30, 2021. A request to reappoint both members will be pursued through Governor’s office. Both agree to continue serving if the appointment is not approved prior to the end of the term expiration.

Sixth Matter of Business: Public Comments

No members of the public attended; no comments.

The next MS Autism Board meeting will take place in July 2021. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:56 p.m.