



Mississippi Autism Board  
P.O. Box 136  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
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**Regular Meeting**  
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting  
July 16, 2021  
Zoom  
(COVID-19 Precaution)

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, July 16, 2021 at 12:30 p.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) and Pete Cajoleas (MS Attorney General’s Office)

**Approval of Minutes:**

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to approve minutes as submitted from May 21, 2021. Williamson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from May 21, 2021 were approved.

**Board Administrator Report:**

Stacie Sharp, Board administrator, reported end-of-year stats. In 2021, there were **new** 29 BCBA’s and six (6) BaCBA’s. compared to only 14 in 2020. CE’s are being reviewed and people are being notified if anything is missing.

**First Matter of Business: CE Report**

Duncan reported sending individual emails to licensees who were required to submit CE’s. Sixty-two practitioners have submitted and have been approved; 13 have not submitted. Sharp is following up. Eleven CE applications did not fulfill the live training component. A suggestion was made to consider what it means for licensing for those who do not submit on time or in full completion. We currently do not have consequences pertaining to the CE’s in the existing rules and regulations. However, it does place the practitioner in non-compliance. The

licenses are renewed every three years, and they are encouraged to become compliant before the license renewal. Johnson suggested allowing up to 90 days to return to compliance with CEs. Duncan agreed to follow up with those who need to complete all requirements.

Duncan discussed challenges tracking CEs and carry over CEs. Johnson referred to Rule 6.2 (A), which states “each licensee must report a minimum of 12 hours each year, including (1) hour of ethical or legal continuing education. Continuing education hours earned in excess of twelve (12) hours will carryover and apply to subsequent year’s(s) record.” Stratton-Gadke suggested modifying the CE application to reflect the possibility for applicants to indicate which 12 hours they want to have applied to current year and to the following two years. Sharp emphasized the need for practitioners to attest and sign their request to have the CEs applied to future years. Duncan will revise the form and send out for review to board members.

### **Second matter of Business: Executive Session**

Johnson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:50 p.m. All were in favor. Stratton-Gadke made a motion to go into Executive Session. Williamson seconded the motion. The Board entered executive session at 12:56 p.m. Johnson announced the beginning of Executive Session.

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

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Williamson. Thurman seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to move out of Executive Session at 1:21 p.m. The motion was seconded with no discussion and passed with all in favor. All were in favor and the motion passed. Guests were invited back into open session at 1:22 p.m. Johnson announced the decisions made in the Executive Session.

### **Third Matter of Business: Report of Oral Exam Committee**

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).

The following individuals were recommended for licensure.

#### Licensed Behavior Analysts

- Shelby Hancock 200033
- Johna Dowdy 200034
- Rebecca Kane 200035
- Leticia Abrams Bracy 200036
- Catherine Wilson 200037
- Katarzina Motylewicz 200038
- Jennifer Trapani 200039

- Katy Riley 200040

Licensed Associate Behavior Analysts

- Deidra Unger 2012088
- Denise Johnson 2012098

All board members were in favor. Williamson abstained from voting for Dowdy and Riley. Johnson abstained from voting for Kane.

The aforementioned licenses will be effective 07-15-2021 and expire 07-15-2024.

#### **Fourth Matter of Business: RBT Registration Considerations**

At this time, there are no points for consideration.

#### **Fifth Matter of Business: Board Appointments**

Duncan and Stratton-Gadke's Board terms expired June 30, 2021. Cajoleas recommended we reach out to the Governor's Office to receive consideration. A request to reappoint both members will be pursued through Governor's office by Johnson and Sharp.

#### **Sixth Matter of Business: Board Newsletter**

Sharp discussed the MAB newsletter article that was disseminated in February 2021. The article discussed RBTs. It is found to be useful for practitioners who may have moved and not updated the Board with new contact information. Additionally, Sharp provides the same information to all new applicants. She suggested future topics such as "what to do with carryover CEs." If the CE form is revised as discussed in this meeting, it would be useful to provide a newsletter pertaining to the changes. Standards of conduct and calendar information could be added. Stratton-Gadke recommended creating a FAQ page on the website pertaining to the information shared in the newsletters.

#### **Seventh Matter of Business: 2022 Calendar Setting**

Board members discussed the 2022 calendar year will be as follows:

- January 21, 2022
- March 25, 2022
- May 20, 2022
- July 15, 2022
- September 16, 2022
- November 18, 2022

Oral examinations will take place at each of the aforementioned dates.

**Eighth Matter of Business: Floor Open to New Business**

The Federation of Association of Regulatory Boards is hosting a legal summit in Nashville and is encouraging regulatory boards to attend. Board attorney, Alexis Morris, is planning to attend and will be asked to report pertinent information to the Board.

**Ninth Matter of Business: Public Comments**

No members of the public attended; no comments.

The next MS Autism Board meeting will take place in September 17, 2021. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:59 p.m.