



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

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, November 19, 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), Alexis Morris (MS Attorney General’s Office), Chelsea Smith, Ginny Creel, Aaron Schrott, Adam Belk, Alex Evaro, Nicole Thomason, Robyn Brewer, Laura Barker, Dorothy Scattone, Adam Belkorchi, and Jessica Adcock

Meeting called at 12:31 p.m. All Board Members present and quorum was met.

Approval of Minutes:

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to approve minutes of the September 17, 2021 meeting as submitted November 19, 2021. Duncan seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from the last special called board meeting on November 19, 2021 were approved.

Board Administrator Report

Sharp, Board administrator, shared that, as the State of Emergency was set to end, the MS Board of Psychology had recently purchased webcams and a WiFi hotspot to be used in continuing to offer the option of a remote oral examination to candidates not located in the State of MS from the Woolfolk conference rooms where WiFi is frequently spotty.

First Matter of Business: Executive Session

Williamson made a motion to go into Executive Session at 12:33 p.m. All were in favor. The Board entered Executive Session at 12:33 p.m. Johnson announced the beginning of Executive Session.

- To review test results that are exempt from public access

A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Stratton-Gadke. Williamson seconded the motion and all were in favor. Johnson announced the Executive Session to public members at 12:34 pm.

At 12:39 pm, Stratton-Gadke made a motion to move out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded with no discussion and passed with all in favor. Guests were invited back into open session at 12:40 p.m. Johnson announced the decisions made in the Executive Session.

Second 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

- Fernando Vinagre 200049
- Amber Robertson 200050
- William "Emile" Swindol 200051
- Mary Weldon 200052
- Megan Miller 200053
- Kristin Webb 200054
- Jessica Adcock 200055
- Elissa Spinks 200056
- Esther Bledsoe 200057
- Lauren Clay 200058

All board members were in favor. The aforementioned licenses will be effective 11-19-2021 and expire 11-19-2024.

Third Matter of Business: Received Complaint

The Board has received complaint 20213. A letter of inquiry has been sent to the Licensed Behavior Analyst. Investigation will begin following the response from the Licensed Behavior Analyst. The Licensed Behavior Analyst has 30 days to respond to the Board.

Public Comments

Public comments were requested. Morris announced that, as the requested revisions to the Rules and Regulations have been submitted to the OLRC approval, the Board could accept comments at this time. The public can review the proposed rules and regulations changes on the Mississippi Administrative Bulletin (MAB). The public can only leave comments during the meeting or submit them in writing to the Board. The Board can then post the comments on the

MAB. Morris advised that the Mississippi Administrative Bulletin (MAB) should be on the docket for **their** next meeting, which should be early in 2022.

The next MS Autism Board meeting will take place in person in Jackson, MS, on January 21, 2022. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:45 p.m.