



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

Special Meeting
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting
September 17, 2021
Zoom
(COVID-19 Precaution)

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, September 17, 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), Dr. Chris Furlow, Lucy Kay Jones, Ginny Creel, Chelsea Smith, Alex Evaro, Ben Duncan, Sim Bendet, Dr. Kim Bellipanni, Sarah Bordelon, Beth Lowery, Josh Soule, Adam Belkorchi, Valisa Williams, Lawrence Chen, Adam Belk, Tasha Holmes, Qianhe Zhang, and Laura Barker

Approval of Minutes:

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to approve minutes as submitted July 16, 2021. Williamson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from July 16, 2021 were approved.

Board Administrator Report

Stacie Sharp, board administrator, had nothing to report at this meeting.

First Matter of Business: Executive Session

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to go into executive session at 12:33 p.m. Williamson seconded the motion. All were in favor. The Board entered executive session at 12:34 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.

At 12:45 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 12:46 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

- Deidra Fernstrum 200041
- Adelaide Burrow 200042
- David Lewis 200043
- Alwana Burrell 200044
- Tara Harrington 200045
- Sheniece Willis 200046
- Patrycja Motlylewicz 200047
- Alexandra Evaro 200048

Licensed Associate Behavior Analysts

- Jennifer Mayor 2012099 (pending final receipt of full application)

All board members were in favor. Duncan abstained from closed and Executive Session. The aforementioned licenses will be effective 09-17-2021 and expire 09-17-2024.

Third Matter of Business: Review of RBT Registration

Williamson asked for clarification pertaining to supervision of RBTs who are supervised by two BCBA's within an agency. Specifically, when an RBT is registered with one BCBA and another BCBA becomes second supervisor, it is incumbent upon the primary registered BCBA to provide the appropriate supervision to the RBT. Johnson noted that in such situations, as long as they continue to be supervised, the RBT continues to work under the license of the primary BCBA. When there is a change in the lead LBA supervising an RBT, a change in registration should be made and the Board should receive a notification of the change in lead supervisor for the RBT. Changing primary BCBA's will incur a fee.

Fourth Matter of Business: Received Complaint

The Board has received complaint 20212. 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.

Fifth Matter of Business: Review of Rules and Regulations

Morris stated rule changes were submitted in November 2020. The MAB is not on the agenda with the OLRC agenda for the October 1, 2021 meeting. She suggested the Board move forward with the upload of newly revised rules and regulations to the Board website. Until otherwise notified by the OLRC, the revised rules and regulations should be followed by the Board. There were minimal changes including the removal of the Board from the Secretary of State's Office, the addition of the Mississippi Psychology Board language, and the change of address for the Board.

Morris discussed House Bill 1263, which is now Miss. Code Ann. §73-50-2 (2021). This refers to licenses under the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act (UROLA). This section is governed under the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act found under Mississippi Code Annotated section 73-50-2. It is recommended to refer to this code section for information regarding qualification for licensure under this Act.

Temporary practice permits are governed under the provisions of the Universal Recognition of Occupational Licenses Act found under Mississippi Code Annotated section 73-50-2(9). It is recommended to refer to this code section for qualification the temporary work permit.

Further discussion on this matter is tabled until the next meeting in November 2021.

Public Comments

Public comments were requested. Sim Bendet publicly commented regarding the cost involved with registration. Johnson noted the fee is set by the MS Legislature and addressed the inability to regulate RBTs under the statute. Bendet also discussed a company in the metro area is asking providers to sign non-compete agreements. Suggested the MAB look into the practice. Morris said the AG's office cannot provide legal advice or opinions but suggested that any practitioner who is seeking to leave a non-compete agreement might wish to contact an attorney because it sounds like a restraint on trade. Morris stated she cannot give any legal advice because she is an attorney for the board.

No additional public comments were shared.

Johnson announced the publication of the 2022 meeting calendar. The next MS Autism Board meeting will take place on November 19, 2021. Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:04 p.m.

