



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

**Regular Meeting**  
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting  
January 15, 2021 4:00 p.m.  
Webex Virtual Meeting  
(COVID-19 Precaution)

**MINUTES**

A special meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, January 15, 2021 at 12:05 p.m. by board member, Dr. Emily Johnson. The meeting took place via Webex in response to the MS Department of Health social distancing guidelines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

**Others Present:** Alexis Morris, Esq. (Board Attorney) and Morgan McFerrin, intern

**Approval of Minutes:**

Johnson made a motion to approve minutes with edits from November 6, 2020. Williamson seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from 11.06.2020 were approved.

**Board Administrator Report:**

Stacie Sharp, Board administrator, was unavailable to provide a report.

**First Matter of Business: Board Financial Report**

In December 2020, the Board received licensing fee collections in the amount of \$1505. There were no noted expenditures. In late 2020, Johnson mailed out a Board newsletter to licensed behavior analysts; a mail out charge is expected.

**Second Matter of Business: Rules and Regulations Revisions**

An external group wishing to mail out information to practitioners and have asked for the list of details of all registered behavior analysts in MS. Duncan referred to the BACB collecting permission to share personal details in a similar fashion. All information is searchable on the

Internet. This request was specifically for one mailing list. Duncan suggested making it possible for people to opt in.

Alexis worked with a similar issue with another public agency. There is no requirement to provide the list. This could be an option for the Board and in doing so a fee could be charged. Stratton-Gadke suggested providing an option for BAs to opt in. Addresses are not collected nor is the Board obligated to collect this information or share because it is not part of public records. Williamson stated that such information is not available and a report cannot be generated without the creation of a new form and reporting structure. Psych Board has a fee for such requests and can disseminate through their reporting mechanism, which the Autism Board currently does not have.

Morris suggested modifying the Board rules and regulations to stipulate the change for future requests that are not related to publicly accessible information.

Board Rules and Regulation updates, previously approved in November 2020, are with the Occupational Licensing Review Commission (OLRC) and are in the review process according to Morris.

Stratton-Gadke brought up the need to add a sentence to the rules and regulations that notates the confusion surrounding RBTs being a direct extension of the BCBA. Morris requested the exact wording for the addition and attempt getting the statement added into the Rules and Regulations that are in the loop with the OLRC. Williamson will prepare a flyer to clarify the confusion of the registration of RBTs. The flyer will be sent to all MS licensed practitioners.

### **Third Matter of Business: Renewals Report**

Behavior analysts who have not renewed have been removed and added to non-renewal category within the database. Those who have not renewed have notified the Board of non-renewals, which are mostly due to moving out-of-state. Williamson noted that we are still not able to post when people have renewed because the old website is no longer working. This has spurred more calls from the insurance companies seeking information about the status of behavior analysts.

### **Fourth Matter of Business: Website**

Stratton-Gadke reported receiving an email about the website on December 8. Duncan was brought into the conversation to share updated forms. The website is essentially ready to be launched. Duncan will send updated forms. Stratton-Gadke will follow up to get a final launch date for the new Board website.

### **Fifth Matter of Business: New Business**

None

### **Sixth Matter of Business: Executive Session**

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

- To review test results that are exempt from public access,

Williamson seconded. The vote was unanimous to move into executive session. The Board entered executive session at 12:28 p.m. Morris announced the beginning of Executive Session. A motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Johnson. Williamson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

A motion was made to move out of Executive Session at 12:37 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.

### **Seventh Matter of Business: Oral Exams/Licensing Report**

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, pending vote and approval (name followed by license number).

#### Licensed Behavior Analysts

- Chelsea Smith            200017
- Samantha Kirk            200018
- Nickie Gael                200020
- Ashlyn Fletcher          200021
- Kristi White               200022
- Yasamin Sarpoolaki      200023
- Allison Furniss            200024
  
- Katherin Powers – approved pending further additional information

The aforementioned licenses will be effective 01-15-2021 and expire 01-15-2024.

### **Eighth Matter of Business: New Business**

There was no new business.

Johnson adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.