



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

**Regular Meeting**  
May 3, 2019 1:00 PM  
401 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

## **MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, May 3, 2019, at 1:02 p.m. by Chairperson, Kasee Stratton.

**Present:** Kasee Stratton (Chairperson), Jim Moore (Board Member), Krystal Thurman (Board Member), Sheila Williamson (Board Member), Emily Johnson (Board Member), Jasmine Sorrell (MSU Graduate Student – Exam Proctor), Jeff Jernigan (Attorney General’s Office), Anna Moak (Senior Counsel, Secretary of State)

### **First Matter of Business: Update on Merger**

Chairperson Stratton attended the February 1, 2019 meeting with the Psychology Board. She reported some confusion about the merger. Anna Moak sent an email about administrative and ministry duties, which were shared with the Psychology Board.

MSI will be updating the Psychology Board website to include Autism Board information. One filing cabinet and accompanying files will need to be transferred to the new location in Woolfolk. Sherriel and Kay are encouraged to meet so Kay can share with Sherriel about the responsibilities related to Autism Board administrative duties.

Moore noted the overall look of the certificate for LBAs. Anna Moak suggested the Secretary of State’s Office Ed & Publishing team could create a certificate; Moak offered to look into getting the certificate created before the merger is complete.

### **Second Matter of Business: Discussion of Board Appointments**

Williamson and Johnson will no longer serve on the board after July 2019 due to term expirations. Both have emailed the Lt. Governor’s Office. Moore officially submitted his resignation from the MS Autism Board and recommended Dr. Neelima Duncan as his replacement in the resignation letter. BAAMS submitted a recommendation letter to the Governor in support of Duncan’s nomination. Moak will provide contact information for Kenny Ellis, the Lt. Governor’s Legislative Liaison.

### **Third Matter of Business: Reports**

No continuing education updates were submitted by Johnson.

### **Fourth Matter of Business: Investigation Report**

Case #18004 is still open. In January 2019, Stratton reported on Investigation Report #18004 and was awaiting a response from the latest letter. As of May 3, 2019, letter requesting supervision records has not received a response by the Board. A discussion to follow up with the Board's attorney to receive the requested records was had. Timeliness of responses is described in the Board's statutes.

Four behavior analysts failed to new licenses. One is still practicing under an expired license. Moore suggested removing the individuals from the Behavior Analyst list and requesting a status letter. Jernigan suggested utilizing the term "lapse" in the status section of the list, thereby rendering the non-compliant analysts unable to bill for services. In requesting the information by the behavior analysts, Jernigan suggested giving a date by which to respond and notifying of the lapse status in the failure to comply. Stratton suggested adopting a timeframe for expirations and subsequent requests. Jernigan suggested mimicking the Psychology Board. Moak questioned whether doing so requires going through APA. Jernigan said we could create an emergency rule to cover for specific amount of time, until which we can make a decision. Williamson noted that if a behavior analyst's license is lapsed, RBTs cannot provide services either. Stratton suggested sending a letter to the four lapsed analysts to remind of the situation and offer a thirty day window to comply with Board rules or risk violating statute. Late renewal fee is \$50; renewal fee is \$250; total for late renewal \$300. They may not practice after 30 days from the date of the letter.

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

Based on recommendation of oral examination committee, Stratton presented the following for licensure approval, pending vote and approval:

- Sarah Litten (190072)
- Mary Beth Welch (190073)
- Laura Peterhoff (190074)
- Jordan Spencer (190075)
- Tiffany Bonds (190076)
- Mark Wildmon (190077)
- Lauren Layman (190078)

Williamson provided a second, no discussion followed and all voted in favor. Stratton reported that the aforementioned licenses will be effective 5-03-2019 and expire 5-02-2022.

### **Sixth Matter of Business: New Business**

Williamson shared a rubric she created for use with oral exams; it was piloted with the 05-03-19 exams. She wants to tweak the contents and add another component.

Williamson suggested a supervisor role with BAAMS. Stratton suggested sharing with Chris Furlow about putting a note and reminder in the BAAMS newsletter.

Moak reported the Leah Rupp Smith created a press release to announce Stratton's chairpersonship of the Autism Board.

DeTerrance, BAAMS President, inquired about the ABA Capitol Day for the 2020 Legislative Session. Williams suggested April 2, 2020 for World Autism Day. Moak will check with DFA to get it on the books.

Moore shared that a few analysts will be up for renewal. Kay typically sends a renewal letter about one month prior to the expiration date. It was noted that is not necessary to list licenses up for renewal in the minutes.

There was no public comment for this meeting.

Stratton thanked Moak, Jernigan, Rupp Smith, Secretary Hosemann, and the entire Secretary of State's staff for the tremendous support and progress that has been made in the Mississippi autism community.

Stratton made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Williamson, all in favor.