



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

**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting  
July 17, 2020 12:30 p.m.  
Webex Virtual Meeting  
(COVID-19 Precaution)

**MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, July 17, 2020 at 12:30 p.m. by board member, Dr. Kasee Stratton-Gadke. 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:** Kasee Stratton-Gadke, Ph.D. (Chair), Emily Johnson, Ph.D., Neelima Duncan, Ph.D., and Krystal Thurman, Ed.D. (Secretary)

**Others Present:** Steve Ellis, Ph.D. (MS Board of Psychology), Stacie Sharp (Board Admin), Alexis Morris, Esq. (Board Attorney)

**First Matter of Business: Recognition of Guests & Website Updates**

The meeting began with recognition of Dr. Steve Ellis, MBOP Chair. Dr. Ellis shared an update regarding the MBOP website. Discussion about the Board’s website took place. Stacie shared her vision for the new website and encouraged more efficiency by designing changes to the way data is collected and stored for RBT certification holders. Ellis discussed the legislature’s approval to increase the Autism Board budget from \$6,000 to \$13,000. It is a goal for the Autism Board to be autonomous in the future. Generating funds is critical as the annual budget needs are between \$25,000 to \$27,000. Additional revenue needs to be generated and can be completed via relicensing and annual renewals.

Ellis described three website proposals recently received. Of the three, two involved large annual maintenance fees and were not affordable with the existing annual budget. Discussion among board members ensued and a determination was made that fillable forms could be developed to make the process and use of the website easier. Directions for completing the forms could be placed on the website. Additionally, the use of Google forms was considered in lieu of a database created by the web developers. A designated board member would oversee the Google form. The Board discussed remaining with NSI as the existing website developers and work in phases over the next several years to add as budget permits. As for changing the

licensing fee, which was brought up during the discussion of annual budgetary needs, it was determined that license fees are stated in statute.

Board members discussed defining progress toward autonomy in the annual report. Dr. Johnston and Dr. Stratton-Gadke agreed to work together to produce the 2021 calendar, which will include meetings in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

### **Second Matter of Business: Old Business**

Old business matters included renewals reports, CEU report, RBT registration and process, and website updates. Sharp provided recommendations for reorganizing the filing system that tracks RBTs and supervisors.

### **Third Matter of Business: New Business**

CEU in-person requirements in light of the COVID-19 pandemic were considered. Board members felt the allowance for virtual CEUs should be continued at this time. In-person CEU requirements will be reinstated when more options are available after the pandemic no longer poses a threat to public health.

The T.K. Martin Center submitted a request to offer CEUs.

The BACB is changing its testing window and the Board is encouraged to examine aligning its meeting/test calendar with the BACB.

Stratton-Gadke's term with the Board was set to expire in October 2020. A request to continue serving will be submitted to the appropriate authority.

Johnson was selected to serve as the new Board chair and Thurman was asked to remain the Board secretary for the next year.

### **Fourth 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 in the state of Mississippi, pending vote and approval (name followed by license number):

- Therese Allen (200003)
- Meredith Andrews (200004)
- Jacqueline Thweatt-Burton (200005)
- Jessica Alexander (200006)
- Rose Withers (200007)

**Sixth Matter of Business: Other New Business**

Morris discussed the Public Records Rule, considerations of licensure for military spouses, Fresh Start Act (died in the Senate) that would lift felony restrictions, and the Open Meetings Act. She noted some updates that need to be made to Board standards and agreed to reach out to the Board in the coming weeks to share more details.

A motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:16 p.m. The next Board meeting will take place November 6, 2020.