



Mississippi Autism Board
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Regular Meeting

Mississippi Autism Board Meeting
July 19, 2019 11:00 a.m.
401 Mississippi Street
Jackson, MS 39201

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Mississippi Autism Board (“Board”) was called to order on Friday, July 19, 2019 at 11:06 a.m. by Chairperson, Dr. Moore.

Board Members Present: Jim Moore, Ph.D. (Chairperson), Emily Johnson, Ph.D., Kasee Stratton, Ph.D. (on phone), Krystal Thurman, Ed.D. (Secretary)

Others Present: Natalie Gaughf, Ph.D. (Mississippi Board of Psychology (MBOP) Board Member), Steve Ellis, Ph.D. (MBOP Board Member), Lisa Yazdani, Ph.D. (MBOP Board Member), Ken Walley, Esq. (Attorney General’s Office), Anna Moak, Esq. (Senior Counsel, Secretary of State), Neelima Duncan, Ph.D. (BCBA-D, Blue Sky Behavior Ltd.), Kayla Bates-Brantley, Elizabeth M. Lowry

First Matter of Business: Dr. Steve Ellis, MS Board of Psychology

Visitors from the Mississippi Board of Psychology (MBOP) attended the meeting to discuss the transition of the Autism Board to MBOP. Ellis gave an overview of the ministerial duties of both boards. Handouts that defined the process and structure were distributed to all present. The packet of handouts included a letter to the Legislative Budget Office and the Department of Finance for the budget process of transferring the funds and outlining the requirements of the Autism Board as it is expected to operate under the authority of the Mississippi Board of Psychology; a letter from the Mississippi Joint Legislative Committee providing approval for program appropriations and program designation for the FY 2021 budget cycle; a document outlining §73-75-11 financing administration of provisions, fees and assessment to be collected by the Board of Psychology; an overview of the structure and roles of the Mississippi Board of Psychology; and, the MBOP FY 19 budget request.

Each handout was discussed among those present. Ellis focused on the administrative duties of the MPOB and those of the Autism Board. Currently, MBOP only has a part time administrator and the transition of the Autism Board to MBOP will bring an additional amount

of work. Ellis suggested the Autism Board members assume a greater administrative role than what may be currently in place.

Ellis provided an overview of the administrative duties undertaken by each MBOP board member. MBOP board members serve in the following capacities: chairperson, continuing education coordinator, civil commitment coordinator, recording secretary, credentialing coordinator, treasurer, and executive secretary. Ellis recommends Autism Board members to portion out duties to ensure nothing is overlooked during transition to MBOP. Moore shared current functions carried out by Autism Board members and noted the similarity to MBOP. Investigations are handled by the chairperson per the Attorney General's guidance. Yazdani suggested an Autism Board member attend MBOP board meetings for the next few months; per procedural guidelines, an Autism Board member should attend MBOP board meetings at least four times a year.

Autism Board expenditure requests should be presented at MBOP meetings. Ellis reviewed the FY19 budget hearing decision that allows MBOP spending authority of \$6,000 for Autism Board for one year. The legislature did not award the original MBOP request of \$14,000. All Autism Board expenditures, including travel, must be approved by MBOP. MBOP oversees the separation of accounts and accounting. Moore and Ellis tried to petition the legislature for some leeway to use existing funds. In order for that to happen, data will need to be collected and a report outlining the need for the funding will need to be provided in order to convince the legislature of the necessity for allowing the funds to be opened up.

Moore spoke about the Autism Board's licensing and investigation responsibilities. He emphasized a confusing licensing issue surrounding registered behavior technicians (RBTs). The Autism Board does not oversee and RBT license. Rather it oversees the license of the BCBA or BCaBA who supervises the RBT. The current approach is cumbersome and confusing. He also suggested the Board consider whether to continue with the physical certification of RBTs and determine who will continue to monitor accuracy. Moore believes the electronic database update is vital.

A discussion about the process for handling Autism Board regulations took place. Moore outlined some of the challenges and ways of moving forward. According to Ellis, the current licensing management system (LMS) used by MBOP would need to be paid in one invoice rather than monthly. The Autism Board could receive a separate invoice; this would be another argument for allocation of additional funds to support Autism Board efforts. Access to the LMS will be kept separate from MBOP. Any requests for a quote should go through Dr. Monica Sutton, MBOP Treasurer. An addendum for the Autism Board may be needed. The Autism Board does not have board member in a treasurer role. Dr. Neelima Duncan will report any treasury concerns to MBOP.

Moore made a motion to nominate Duncan (new member) as Autism Board Transition Liaison with MBOP; motion was seconded by Thurman and approved by all board members.

Stratton suggested hiring an administrative worker for five hours a week. The administrator would follow the outline provided by Kay Earles and Moak of the Secretary of State's Office.

MBOP is planning to hire a full time administrator and could include five hours of work for the Autism Board as a component of the administrator's workload. A graduate student may be another viable option. Moore suggested requesting the funds to hire someone for five hours per week at the next MBOP board meeting, which is scheduled for August 16, 2019. The location is to be determined. Stratton made a motion to request the funds from MBOP. Moore seconded. The motion passed with all in favor. Stratton asked Duncan to attend the next MBOP meeting.

Second Matter of Business: Reappointment of Board Members

Johnson and Williamson were reappointed to the Autism Board by the Governor. Their terms will expire in July 2023.

Third Matter of Business: Appointment of New Board Member

Moore is resigning effective at the end of July 19, 2019 Autism Board meeting to take a seat at the National Certification Board. Duncan has been appointed and begins her term immediately at the end of the July 19, 2019 Autism Board meeting.

Fourth Matter of Business: Oral Exams/Licensing Report

Based on recommendation of oral examination committee, Moore 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).

- Jessica Broome 190079
- Kayla Bates-Brantley 190080
- Elizabeth Lowry 190081 (pending background check)

Motion was made and seconded and all board members were in favor. The aforementioned licenses will be effective 07-19-2019 and expire 8-19-2019.

Executive Session

Moore made a motion to enter into Executive Session on the grounds of discussing continuing education credits (CEs) and an investigation. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Guests were excused and the door was closed to the public indicating the meeting had moved into executive session and was closed to the public. Thurman made a motion to move into executive session; the motion was seconded. All were in favor and executive session began.

A motion was made to move out of Executive Session. The motion was seconded with no discussion and passed with all in favor. Moore made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed. All guests were invited back into open session. Duncan returned to the meeting.

Fifth Matter of Business: Continuing Education Report

Johnson reported that sixteen licensed behavior analysts (LBAs) were out of compliance for continuing education credits (CEs). Four LBAs did not seek license renewal. One LBA is out of compliance because more than 50% of the practitioner's CEs were completed online. During executive session, the Board voted to send notice of deadline for missing CEs.

Sixth Matter of Business: New Business

Minutes from last meeting were reviewed. Stratton motioned to accept the minutes as provided and Moore seconded. All voted in favor to accept the minutes from the May 3, 2019 meeting.

Seventh Matter of Business: Old Business

Capitol Day is April 1, 2020. Johnson spoke with BAAMS President about taking on the ABA Capitol Day. Guidance was requested from MS Autism Board. Moore has encouraged BAAMS executive officers to consider playing a larger advocacy role.

Floor opened to AG representative, Ken Walley, who shared his greetings, his background, and his excitement to work with the Board.

Stratton expressed appreciation to Johnson and Williamson for staying with board, for Duncan for stepping into board role, and to Moore for leadership and expressed the MS Autism Board members' excitement to work with him in his new role as a BACB national board member. Moore expressed his happiness to see the board come to fruition, to see the profession grow in Mississippi, and to see how the discipline continues to grow in the years to come. Duncan expressed gratitude for being on board.

Motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.