



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

**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Mississippi Autism Board Meeting  
November 6, 2020 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, November 6, 2020 at 4:10 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 Williams, Ph.D., and Krystal Thurman, Ed.D. (Secretary)

**Others Present:** Stacie Sharp (Board Admin), and Alexis Morris, Esq. (Board Attorney)

**Approval of Minutes:**

Stratton-Gadke made a motion to approve minutes from July 17, 2020. Duncan seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the minutes from 07.17.2020 were approved.

**Board Administrator Report:**

Sharp discussed the development of an oral admission form. Johnson and Sharp developed a letter to send to applicants that outlined the process. Sharp felt it helped reduce or eliminate confusion. Sharp has received numerous inquiries from insurance companies related to practitioners that are not registered in Mississippi.

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

Johnson requested a DFA summary so the Board can have the data on hand prior to preparing budgetary requests. Sharp said there has been no disbursement of Autism Board funds. She has requested an income report from DFA so the Board will have a better gauge of number of applications and accompanying fees received. Johnson shared that as of October, the Board’s income was \$2,270.00. DFA is responsible for preparing funding reports and depositing funds into Autism Board account.

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

Morris asked whether the Board had any comments or concerns about the revisions to the Autism Board Rules. OLRC will need to receive a PDF copy of the updated Rules and Morris offered to provide this service to the Board. Stratton-Gadke asked for clarification of 16.1 pertaining to military spouses, specifically sub-section A and B (page 5). She suggested modifying the language by removing “licensed behavior analyst” and “licensed assistant behavior analyst” and replacing with BCBA and BCaBA, respectively. The modification will better reflect the differences among states that do not have a licensure system. Stratton-Gadke moved to accept with modification, Duncan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

A number of individuals were expected to renew in October. Johnson mailed reminder letters to all. One individual moved out of state. One individual sought renewal based on CEs for podcasts, which were not approved; the individual has not sought further clarification and their renewal did not get approved in October. The behavior analyst still has a chance of renewal if they fulfill the criteria and pay the late fee. The individual is expected not to practice in Mississippi until the renewal is validated.

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

Stratton-Gadke had no updates at this time.

## **Fifth Matter of Business: Form revisions**

Duncan made revisions to forms and they are ready to be added to the website. Johnson and Sharp noted some additions that will need to be added to the forms. Duncan will take feedback and add to the forms.

## **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,
- To review application discrepancy,
- To discuss possible ethical violation.

Stratton-Gadke seconded. The vote was unanimous to move into executive session. The Board entered executive session at 4:37 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 5:01 p.m. The motion was seconded with no discussion and passed with all in favor. Williamson made a motion to return to open session. Duncan 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 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

- Summer Sanderson 200008
- Olivia Kleyer 200009
- Falon Robertson 200010
- Jessica Ledbetter 200011
- Brian Cline 200012
- Danica Evans 200013
- McKenzie Parker 200014
- Katlyn Maxwell 200015
- Loralie Zering 200016 (pending transcripts)

### Licensed Assistant Behavior Analysts

- Samantha Bengino 201003A
- Katherine Harrison 201004A (pending transcripts and passed background check)
- Brenna Radin 201005A

Johnson made a motion in favor of approving licensure for the aforementioned individuals. The motion was seconded by Duncan. No discussion followed. All Board members were in favor and the motion passed. The aforementioned licenses will be effective 11-06-2020 and expire 11-05-2023.

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

One supervision form was signed by a BCBA but it did not match the supervisor's (BCBA) signature. The BCBA was contacted and accepted responsibility for the BCaBA. Johnson made a motion to approve. Stratton-Gadke seconded.

Johnson drafted the dates for the 2021 calendar. A flier with that information will be shared with all Board members and on the website. January 15, 2021 is the next scheduled Autism Board meeting.

Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m., Stratton-Gadke seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and no discussion.