



Board of Behavioral Sciences



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Gavin Newsom, Governor
State of California

Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
Department of Consumer Affairs

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Open sessions of this Board Meeting were webcasted. Records of the webcasts are available at the following links:

Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=New2l_3uvcs&feature=youtu.be

Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uri0zHOf_CY&feature=youtu.be

DATE July 30, 2020

MEETING PLATFORM Zoom Video/Phone Conference

Pursuant to the provisions of Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-25-20, dated March 12, 2020, neither a public location nor teleconference locations are provided.

TIME 8:30 a.m.

ATTENDEES

Members Present: Max Disposti, Chair, Public Member
Christina Wong, Vice Chair, LCSW Member
Crystal Anthony, LCSW Member
Dr. Leah Brew, LPCC Member
Deborah Brown, Public Member
Ross Erlich, Public Member
Susan Friedman, Public Member
Christopher Jones, LEP Member
Jonathan Maddox, LMFT Member
John Sovec, LMFT Member
Wendy Strack, Public Member

Members Absent: All members present

Staff Present: Kim Madsen, Executive Officer
Steve Sodergren, Assistant Executive Officer
Sabina Knight, Legal Counsel
Christina Kitamura, Administrative Analyst

Other Attendees: Coren D. Wong, Administrative Law Judge
Phillip Arthur, Deputy Attorney General
Public participation via Zoom video conference and phone conference

OPEN SESSION

I. Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum

Max Disposti, Chair of the Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board), called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. Roll was called, and a quorum was established.

II. Public Comment for Items not on the Agenda

Perla Hollow: Due to the recent social justice movement, requesting to change the structure of mandatory continuing education (CE) credits and is requesting to mandate 4 CE units, required each renewal cycle, related to mulit-cultural, LGBTQ+ and gender competence.

Herbert Weiner: The Governor issued an “appeal” for Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) in light of the pandemic. Due to the 6-year time frame, Weiner cannot provide services during the pandemic. He appealed the 6-year time frame in 2011 and lost the appeal. He also lost his hours required for licensure. This issue needs to be addressed.

Nhi T. Pham: Kaiser is one of the largest employers of medical social workers in California. Kaiser has both for-profit and non-profit entities. Medical social workers have the same job duties in both of its for-profit and non-profit settings. As a result, each site has a different requirement for supervision. The non-profit cohort can hire someone to provide clinical supervision; Kaiser’s for-profit cannot. Instead, they are restricted to a supervisor who is employed full time in the same building as the supervisee. The regulations overlook the complex financial and organizational of major healthcare institutions. Requests that the Board extend the bill’s timeline with a follow-up discussion with medical social workers and address these disparities.

Rebecca Gonzales, NASW-CA: Problems scheduling exams due to the pandemic.

Tonya Salas: Difficulties in finding a test center that is open and located at a reasonable distance.

Josey Baker: Echoing Nhi Pham’s comment. Asked the Board to review their petition.

Rebecca, ASW: Echoing Rebecca Gonzales regarding difficulty in scheduling exams.

III. **Suggestions for Future Agenda Items**

Brew: 1. Discussion regarding Kaiser medical social workers to ensure equity in their ability to provide services. 2. Consider adding mandatory CE units related to diversity issues, specifically race, ethnicity, LGBTQ+, gender and gender identity, religion, disability and social class.

Ranasinghe: Add poverty and immigration to Brew's suggestion.

Wong: Discussion regarding telehealth and competency required for licensees and associates.

Disposti: Presentation of overview for exams and development.

Sovec: Explore data collection on the social economic and cultural diversity of people that are being cited by the Board, those who are requesting a petition hearing, licensees being placed on probation.

Administrative Law Judge Sean Gavin presided over the following petition hearings. Deputy Attorney General Patricia Heim presented the facts of each case on behalf of the People of the State of California.

IV. **Petition for Early Termination of Probation for Jessica Steffan, LMFT 117187**

The hearing was opened at 8:58 a.m. Jessica Steffan was present and represented herself. Mr. Arthur presented the background of Ms. Steffan's probation.

Ms. Steffan was sworn in. She presented her request for early termination of probation and information to support the request and was cross-examined by Mr. Arthur and Board members. The record was closed at 9:52 a.m.

V. **Petition for Early Termination of Probation for Gabriel Mejia, LCSW 26412**

The hearing was opened at 10:10 a.m. Gabriel Mejia was present and represented himself. Mr. Arthur presented the background of Mr. Mejia's probation.

Mr. Mejia was sworn in. He presented his request for early termination of probation and information to support the request and was cross-examined by Mr. Arthur and Board members. The record was closed at 11:27 a.m.

VI. Petition for Early Termination of Probation for Briana Turner, LMFT 112525

The hearing was opened at 12:05 p.m. Briana Turner was present and represented herself. Mr. Arthur presented the background of Ms. Turner's probation.

Ms. Turner was sworn in. She presented her request for early termination of probation and information to support the request and was cross-examined by Mr. Arthur and Board members.

The Board went into closed session at 1:40 p.m., and reconvened in open session at 2:03 p.m. Judge Wong continued this hearing at 3:13 p.m.

The record was closed at 3:24 p.m.

VII. Petition for Reinstatement for Catherine Christensen, LMFT 23928

The hearing was opened at 2:07 p.m. Catherine Christensen was present and represented herself. Mr. Arthur presented the background of Ms. Christensen's license revocation.

Ms. Christensen was sworn in. She presented her request for reinstatement of license and information to support the request and was cross-examined by Mr. Arthur and Board members. The record was closed at 2:52 p.m.

VIII. Petition for Reinstatement for Eileen Kelly, LMFT 30191

This petition was withdrawn.

CLOSED SESSION

IX. Pursuant to Section 11126(c)(3) of the Government Code, the Board Will Meet in Closed Session for Discussion and to Take Action on Disciplinary Matters, Including the Above Petitions.

The Board met in closed session at 3:25 p.m.

Anthony left the meeting at 4:33 p.m. A quorum of the Board remained.

OPEN SESSION

X. Adjournment Upon Conclusion of Business

The Board adjourned at 5:00 p.m.