

TENNESSEE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE MINUTES

**DATE:** November 5, 2009  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m., CST  
**LOCATION:** Iris Room, Ground Floor  
227 French Landing  
Heritage Place – MetroCenter  
Nashville, TN 37247

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Teresa Housteau, LCSW, Chair  
Pamela Sams, LCSW  
Michele Horton, MSW  
Vicki Williams, MSW  
Julia Axley, BSW  
Steven Pharris, LMSW  
Frances Mazzaferro, LMSW  
Georgia Alexander, LCSW  
Sheryl DeMott, LMSW

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Amy Gasser, BSW

**STAFF PRESENT:**

James A. Hill, Board Administrator  
Elizabeth Miller, Director  
Christopher Larkin, Advisory Attorney  
Barbara S. Maxwell, Administrative Director

Ms. Housteau, chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present.

**Conflict of Interest**

Mr. Larkin discussed the conflict of interest asking any Board member who has a potential conflict of interest to notify him.

**Contested Case Hearing - Licensure Denial Appeal for Christopher Russell**

Administrative Law Judge, Joyce Ball, presided over the licensure denial appeal. Christopher Larkin, advisory attorney, represented the State.

Christopher Russell was unable to attend the meeting but was present via telephone. Mr. Russell applied for licensure as an LMSW on February 12, 2009. His application indicated he had two (2) felony charges involving drugs and alcohol in 1979 and 1985, which he stated were to be pardoned. Mr. Russell was sent a letter requesting him to appear before the Board at the May 7, 2009 meeting and to submit paperwork showing the pardon. Mr. Russell failed to appear before the Board at the May 7, 2009 or August 6, 2009 meeting or provide the documentation.

After hearing the testimony and discussing the matter, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sams, to find that Mr. Russell did not comply with the letter requesting his appearance at the May 7, 2009 meeting or submit documentation that he received a pardon. The motion carried.

Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mazzaferro, to conclude that it is the applicant's responsibility to submit the documentation necessary to complete the file. The motion carried.

Ms. Williams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to uphold the licensure denial or grant Mr. Russell licensure based on his application. A roll call vote was conducted. Seven (7) board members voted to uphold the licensure denial. Three (3) voted to grant Mr. Russell a license. The motion to uphold the licensure denial carried.

The Board made this decision to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

### **Applicant Interview**

The Board reviewed the Advanced Practice Social Work application of **M. Karen Tranter**, who requested a waiver of the ASWB examination. Ms. Tranter stated that when she was licensed in New York in 1986, New York administered the licensure examination.

Mr. Pharris stated he reviewed her application and did not recommend her for licensure by reciprocity because Rule 1365-1-.05(4)(a) states the Board may issue a license to any person who, at the time of application, holds a valid license issued by a board of social work or any state; provided, in the Board's opinion, the requirements for that original licensure are substantially equivalent to Tennessee's.

The Board reviewed a copy of T.C.A. §63-23-101 and other documentation from 1984 regarding licensure requirements.

Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Horton, to approve Ms. Tranter for licensure. The motion carried.

### **Agreed Order for M. Jean Fair, LCSW**

The Board reviewed an Agreed Order for **M. Jean Fair, LCSW**. Ms. Fair agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$1,000, obtain an additional nine (9) hours of continuing education within one (1) year, to have her license on probation until the conditions are met, and to pay all cost incurred by the Office of General Counsel and Investigations.

Upon discussion, Ms. Williams made a motion to accept the Agreed Order. The motion failed for lack of a second.

After further discussion, Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alexander, to reject the Agreed Order and to conduct a contested case hearing. A roll call vote was conducted and seven (7) members voted in the affirmative. Ms. Williams opposed and Ms. Sams abstained. The motion carried.

### **Minutes**

Ms. Horton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sams, to approve the August 6, 2009 Board meeting minutes as written.

### **Office of General Counsel Report**

Mr. Larkin said the emergency rules pertaining to the new levels of licensure have been approved and will be submitted to the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Larkin said he anticipates they will become effective within one (1) month.

Mr. Hill stated the applications have gone before the forms committee and, after minor changes, will be posted on the board's web site when the rules go into effect.

### **Investigative Report**

There are currently nine (9) open complaints against LCSW's. There are eight (8) open complaints against CMSW's.

### **Disciplinary Report**

Ms. Stone is currently monitoring one (1) CMSW, one (1) LCSW and one (1) person who is unlicensed. Ms. Stone stated four (4) practitioners have had their licenses revoked; however they still owe civil penalties and/or costs.

### **Applicant Interview**

**Elisa Gitan, LCSW** appeared to discuss her application. Ms. Gitan was unable to obtain a reference form letter; however, she produced documentation from her licensure files in

Hawaii and Colorado. Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott to approve Ms. Gitan's application for licensure. The motion carried.

**Amy Williams, LCSW** applicant appeared to discuss her application. Mr. Pharris stated that Ms. Williams had a 1999 charge of DUI. Upon discussion, Ms. Horton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Axley, to approve Ms. Williams's application for licensure. The motion carried.

**Thenaus Williamson, LMSW** applicant appeared to discuss his application. Mr. Pharris stated that Mr. Williamson had a 1994 charge of possession of illegal drugs. Upon discussion, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sams, to approve Mr. Williamson's application for licensure. The motion carried.

**Kelly Tripp, LMSW** applicant appeared to discuss her application. Mr. Pharris stated that Ms. Tripp had a 1992 drug possession misdemeanor. Upon discussion, Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Horton, to approve Ms. Tripp's application for licensure. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the application of **Emily Roberts, LCSW** which was initially reviewed at the August 6, 2009 meeting. At that meeting the board requested her to obtain an additional 700 hours of supervision. Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. Horton, to accept the additional hours and approve Ms. Roberts' application for licensure. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed the application for **Cynthia Kelly, LCSW** who was licensed in Indiana in 1993 and received her license prior to the requirement of the ASWB examination. Mr. Pharris made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to defer the application of Ms. Kelly and ask her to submit proof of the equivalency of licensure laws of Indiana. The motion carried.

Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Alexander, to approve the application for **Pete Barber, LMSW**, for licensure. The motion carried.

Ms. Mazzaferro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sams to approve **Debra White's** application for LMSW. The motion carried.

Ms. Axley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mazzaferro, to approve the following LCSW applications for licensure:

**Lori Brooks**  
**Ashley Bruce**  
**Stephanie Craig**  
**Ron Debord**  
**Vidya Dubbaka**  
**Jennifer Dunn**  
**Megan Flynn**

**Amanda Gerth-Jones  
Alison Goad  
Emily Hardcastle  
Christopher Hargrove  
Freida Herron  
Mary Keathley  
Meredith Lewis  
Jennifer Mick  
Cynthia Monroe  
Denise Muse  
Lindsay Naylor  
Janelle Nimer  
Sara Novak  
Monica Nwachuku  
Susan O'Hara  
Kathryn Patten  
Leslie Peck  
Stephanie Ranson  
Tiffinea Reid-Jones  
Ryan Smith  
Dashaune Vance**

The motion carried.

**Reinstatement Application**

Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mazzaferro, to approve the reinstatement application for **Barbara Ardell, LSW**. The motion carried.

**Newly Licensed LCSW and LMSW**

Ms. Sams made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mazzaferro, to approve the following LCSW and LMSW applicants for licensure:

**LCSW**

**Julie Adams  
Elizabeth Anderson  
Rebecca Barger  
Darrell Boyd  
Christy Claiborne  
Kristianne Clayton  
Jon Faxon  
Carolyn Fitzsimons  
Gerald Goodwin  
Lisa Gossett**

**Elizabeth Gunckel  
Kate Gundersen  
Leanna Hayes  
Xiomara Hernandez  
Alicia Hutt  
Brenda Keith  
Edward Joseph Korn  
Robert Landrigan  
Joan LePage  
Misti Lira  
Karen Malone  
Joanna Mansur  
Angela Maxwell  
Sara Moss  
Craig Pressley  
Martha Rice  
Yvonne Robertson  
Lisa Rusher  
Lucy Scales  
Diane Schmidt  
Thelma Sherrod  
Glenda Stark  
Randall Stewart  
Dulcy Stout  
Heather Taylor  
Netsanet Tegegn  
William Thompson  
Anna Vaneaton  
Haley Watson  
Cindi Webster  
Shawn Wright**

**LMSW**

**Anita Abelson  
Jenny Allison  
Casey Altepeter  
April Armstrong  
Sarah Ballard  
Shonda Barber  
Loretta Batiste  
Kim Behrend  
Amy Bennett  
Melissa Benson  
Ronald Brewer  
Daniele Brooks**

**Meredith Brown**  
**Tonya Brown**  
**Misty Burnette**  
**Turquious Bryd**  
**Christy Carey**  
**Lisa Cherry**  
**Brnadi Cirotto**  
**Liz Clemons**  
**Elizabeth Costello**  
**Matthew Coutts**  
**Demonica Coverson**  
**Catherine Danielson**  
**Caidie DePriest**  
**Robert DeSalvo**  
**Shannon Dow**  
**Malissa Duckworth**  
**Janai Duncan**  
**Delena Dunlap**  
**Michael Ervin**  
**Any Evans**  
**Miranda Ezell**  
**Kimberly Falk**  
**Joyce Smith**  
**Lauren Ferzoco**  
**Faedra Fisher**  
**Erin Foerster**  
**Jeffrey Follis**  
**Jamie Garretson**  
**Melida Garrett**  
**Christina Gentile**  
**Jane Gerardi**  
**Jennifer Gervin**  
**Elisa Gitan**  
**Anita Gonzalez**  
**Emily Gordon**  
**Kayetta Grant**  
**Crystan Watson**  
**Joel Grissom**  
**Devin Hansen**  
**Tia Henry**  
**Tonya Hobbs**  
**Tanekia Holmes**  
**Erin Hoover**  
**Linda Howerton**  
**Randal Huff**  
**Aster Jemere**

**Crystal Johnson  
Michelle Jones  
Folawumi Kayode  
Catherine Keebler  
Sara Mindrup  
Eron Key  
Cassandra King  
Jennifer Krauss  
Junanelle Lambert  
Michelle Lattier  
Danielle Lehnerr  
Rosalie Lewandowski  
Tracy Lieboritz  
Donna Liggins  
Janet Light  
Karin Little  
Gennifer Mann  
Flora Margolis  
Jana Marlow  
Barry McBride  
Amanda McClain  
Sharon McCoy  
Robert McNamara  
Kimberly Moore  
Elizabeth Mowery  
Joyce Mullins  
Ayne Nichols  
Mary Oaks  
Brandon Ousley  
Tammy DelCano  
Lynn Kurpiewski  
Mia Powell  
Rose Rathbun  
Twinette Ravenell  
Charlotte Ray  
Elizabeth Raynor  
Amber Reece  
Tavianna Renier  
Sarah Reymer  
Lakisah Richie  
Laura Riegler  
Leonard Robinson  
Charles Rogers  
Ramon Roman  
Andrea Serafin  
Melanie Akins**

**Barbara Simmons  
Tiwanda Simpkins  
Lisa Skinner  
Casey Skorput  
Jennifer Smith  
Andrea Stallworth  
Joseph Stotts  
Christina Swansbrough  
Katie Swarthout  
Cassandra Talbert  
Constance Thornley  
Anne Umbach  
Paul Varner  
Aretha Verner  
Bridgette Walker  
Hanah Wall  
Margaret Wallace  
Maggie Waltz  
Grances Warner  
Danielle Whitmon  
Allene Wicker  
Kristie Wilder  
Julie Williams  
Linda Wilson  
Tina Winegar  
Eugenia Wyatt  
Robert Wymss  
Raelonda Wynn  
Theodore Young**

The motion carried.

#### **Agreed Citations**

Ms. Horton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Axley, to approve the Agreed Citations for **Kirk D. Steele, LCSW** and **Joseph Ventimiglia, LCSW**. The motion carried.

#### **Administrative Report**

There are 2060 actively licensed LMSW's and 2018 actively licensed LCSW's.

The results of the continuing education audit for January through June 2009: Twenty (20) LMSW's were audited, sixteen (16) were compliant. Twenty-three (23) LCSW's were audited, twenty (20) were compliant. There is an 80% compliance rate for LMSW's and an 87% compliance rate for LCSW's.

### **Other Board Business**

Ms. Maxwell discussed the ASWB meeting in Clearwater stating fifty-three (53) jurisdictions were represented which was the largest representation ASWB has had at an annual meeting. She attended the board administrator's forum the first day. Compared to other states Tennessee is doing excellent. The delegates voted and approved a tiered exam and to raise examination fees. The bachelors and master's level examination will be \$240 and the advanced generalists and clinical \$260. Ms. Maxwell said the ASWB examination fee is reasonable.

With no other Board business to conduct, Ms. Sams made a motion, seconded by Mr. Pharris, to adjourn at 2:40 p.m. The motion carried.

**Adopted by the Board of Social Worker Licensure on this the 25th day of February 2010.**