

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER CERTIFICATION AND  
LICENSURE MINUTES**

**DATE:** August 2, 2007

**TIME:** 9:00 A.M., CST

**LOCATION:** Health Related Boards  
Poplar Room  
227 French Landing, Suite 150  
Heritage Place MetroCenter  
Nashville, TN 37243

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:** Beverly Esposito, LCSW  
Frances Mazzaferro, CMSW  
Sheryl DeMott, CMSW  
Teresa Housteau, LCSW

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**ABSENT:** Vickie Fleming, CMSW, Chair  
Suzanne Vandiver, LCSW  
Sheila Morris, Consumer Member

**STAFF**

**PRESENT:** James Hill, Board Administrator  
Barbara Maxwell, Administrative Director  
Nicole Armstrong, Advisory Attorney  
Lakita Taylor, AARBI

Ms. Esposito called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A sufficient number of board members were present to constitute a quorum.

**Conflict of Interest Policy**

Ms. Armstrong reviewed the conflict of interest policy with the board asking all board members to disclose any conflict of interest they may have prior to contested cases or any other legal proceedings or matters to determine if there is a conflict of interest. Ms. Armstrong stated if a board member does have a conflict of interest they must recuse him/herself and leave the hearing room during the proceeding.

### **Review May 3, 2007 Minutes**

Upon review of the May 3, 2007 board meeting minutes, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

### **Licensure Denial Appeal of Philip J. Della Jacova**

Administrative Law Judge, Randall Lafever, presided over the licensure denial appeal of Philip J. Della Jacova. Christopher Larkin, Assistant General Counsel, represented the State, and Mr. Della Jacova was represented by Attorney Garrett Asher.

Judge Lafever asked the board members to state their name for the court reporter and for any member who may have a conflict of interest to recuse themselves.

Mr. Della Jacova stated in his testimony he was convicted of drug charges in 1992 and entered a rehabilitation program in 1993 for drug addiction. Upon completion of treatment, Mr. Della Jacova entered college and began working at the treatment center where he was treated. Mr. Della Jacova stated he successfully earned a masters degree and then began work at the VA in Florida. Mr. Della Jacova said he is seeking licensure because the VA requires licensure for employment. Mr. Della Jacova stated he currently works as a social worker in the acute psychiatric unit at the VA. Mr. Della Jacova said he underwent an extended background check by the federal government and has been allowed to work without stipulations. Mr. Della Jacova stated he has remained drug free since treatment and still attends a twelve (12) step program.

Upon review of the findings of fact, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to accept the stipulations of findings of fact. The motion carried.

Upon discussion, Ms. Mazzaferro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to grant Mr. Della Jacova for licensure as a CMSW on the basis of Mr. Della Jacova's consistency in being a productive member of the community. The motion carried.

Upon discussion, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mazzaferro, to adopt the following policy for the board's decision:

These actions were taken to protect the health and welfare of the persons living in, working in, or visiting the State of Tennessee.

The motion carried.

### **Contested Case of Sherry L. Page, CMSW**

Administrative Law Judge, Randall Lafever, presided over the contested case hearing of Sherry L. Page, CMSW. Christopher Larkin, Assistant General Counsel, represented the State, and Ms. Page was not present.

Mr. Larkin requested a motion to proceed with a default judgment due to Ms. Page not being present. Upon discussion, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to proceed with an uncontested case, as the respondent has failed to appear. The motion carried.

Mr. Larkin said Ms. Page has failed to make any contact or respond to the Office of General Counsel. Mr. Larkin presented the board with three (3) documents showing evidence that Ms. Page's registered addresses were invalid and all returned by the USPS. Mr. Larkin stated the record should show Ms. Page has recently changed her last name to Smith.

Mr. Larkin said Ms. Page was disciplined in 2004 for fraudulently obtaining benefits and has violated that order. Mr. Larkin stated the order placed Ms. Page's license on two (2) years probation, required her to submit proof of continuing education hours in ethics and assessed civil penalties in the amount of five hundred dollars (\$500). Mr. Larkin said Ms. Page has not complied with the order and the state would like to assess revocation of licensure and assessment of an additional civil penalty in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for violation of the board order.

Juanita Stone, Disciplinary Coordinator, stated she was familiar with Ms. Page's order and Ms. Page has not paid fees nor provided proof of continuing education requirements. Ms. Stone verified three (3) certified letters were sent to Ms. Page regarding her penalties, with no response or contact from Ms. Page.

Upon conclusion of the findings of fact, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to accept the findings of fact and revoke Ms. Page's license for willfully violating the order by having no contact with the state, incompleteness of required continuing education and failure to pay civil penalties. The motion carried.

Upon discussion of the conclusions of law, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to accept the assessment of an additional civil penalty of one hundred dollars (\$100). The motion carried.

Upon discussion, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to adopt the following policy for the board's decision:

These actions were taken to protect the health and welfare of the persons living in, working in, or visiting the State of Tennessee.

The motion carried.

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

Ms. Armstrong said rule amendments regarding temporary certification and continuing education were sent to the Attorney General February 22, 2007 and will become effective September 16, 2007.

Ms. Armstrong said the Office of General Counsel currently has four (4) open cases pertaining to the Tennessee Board of Social Worker Certification and Licensure.

Ms. Armstrong stated ETSU received accreditation June of this year and temporary certification may be issued to applicants who can show proof that the university attended is seeking accreditation. Ms. Armstrong said once accreditation is obtained, the applicant has sixty (60) days to apply for licensure. Ms. Armstrong stated a decorative wall license will not be issued, but a letter stating conditions of temporary certification.

Ms. Armstrong stated Karen Franklin and ETSU's Director are to appear at the next board meeting to address temporary certification.

### **Investigative Report**

Ms. Stone reviewed the Investigative Report stating there are currently three (3) complaints against LCSW's. Ms. Stone stated two (2) complaints have been closed; one (1) with no action and one (1) referred to OGC.

Ms. Stone stated there are currently four (4) complaints against CMSW's. Ms. Stone said two (2) complaints have been closed; one (1) with a letter of concern and one (1) referred to OGC.

### **Disciplinary Report**

Ms. Stone reviewed the Disciplinary Report stating there are currently nine (9) LCSW's and CMSW's being monitored by the Office of Investigations.

### **Financial Report**

Mr. Hill reviewed the Financial Report stating the board has a cumulative carryover of \$288,629.92 as of June 30, 2007.

### **Administrative Report**

Mr. Hill reviewed the Administrative Report stating as of July 7, 2007 there are currently 1594 active CMSW's, 2332 retired, 1432 failed to renew, 43 applications in process and 63 deceased.

Mr. Hill stated as of July 7, 2007 there are currently 1870 active LCSW's, 313 retired, 363 failed to renew, 86 applications in process and 49 deceased.

Mr. Hill said the benchmark for renewal processing is 10 days with CMSW's averaging 6.6 days and LCSW's averaging 5.58 days. Mr. Hill said the benchmark for application processing is 100 days with CMSW's averaging 59.3 days and LCSW's averaging 258.6 days. Mr. Hill said renewal processing time has decreased due to licensees utilizing the

internet renewal system, signing renewals and submitting renewals in a timely manner. Mr. Hill said application processing time has also decreased due to applicants submitting required documentation.

Mr. Hill stated the Board's internet website is an excellent location to find valuable board information for applicants and licensees. Mr. Hill asked the board to please visit the site and encourage colleagues to utilize the online services, including license renewal.

### **Ratify Newly Licensed LCSW's and CMSW's**

Upon review, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to ratify the following newly licensed LCSW's:

**Inger B. Blanton  
Grace A. Bluerock  
Sharon L. Decker  
June C. Dixon  
Kristine G. Emry  
Leonora E. Foels  
Joy A. Fowler  
Diana L. Frances  
Sandra L. Garcia  
Jill L. Garner  
Jeanne-Marie J. Gisclair  
Kendra Gorentz  
Teri A. Green  
Cynthia L. Harmon  
Joseph G. Hogan  
Robert B. Humphreys  
Sally P. Kapela  
Jennifer L. McCluskey  
Mark M. Murphy  
Jane M. Oberholtzer  
Lina C. Roberts  
Jacqueline B. Schott  
Cynthia A. Snyder  
Rebecca L. Swift  
Dontrell H. Turner  
Kary Valdes  
Calerie Votaw  
Wendy Ward  
Sarah P. Weddington  
Courtney P. Weiler**

The motion carried.

Upon review, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to ratify the following CMSW's:

**Betsy B. Abrams**  
**Wendy C. Anderson**  
**Sergio Antoniuk**  
**Teresa D. Baird-McCloud**  
**Jessica E. Barndt**  
**Dianne M. Bauer**  
**Karson L. Beaty**  
**Fawn J. Bilderback**  
**Michelle L. Brandon**  
**Amber R. Brauckmuller**  
**Cherie Bridges-Patrick**  
**April M. Broussard**  
**Shannon W. Brown**  
**Amy L. Brown-Swecker**  
**Anne C. Bryan**  
**Courtney W. Bryant**  
**Janet G. Cagle**  
**Frances L. Cartwright**  
**Jacqueline C. Conner**  
**Kathleen M. Connolly**  
**Rachel M. Cooper**  
**Jessica A. Corbitt**  
**Cynthia R. Cox**  
**Amy M. Dingus**  
**Barbara J. Dombey-Fersten**  
**Nicoll Doramus**  
**Laura T. Duckett**  
**Julia B. Duff**  
**Mindy D. Duncan**  
**Jennifer S.B. Eubanks**  
**Bernadette A. Fackovec**  
**Melinda S. Fondren**  
**Misty L. Gallimore**  
**Laura J. Gomez**  
**Alisa M. Graceffa**  
**Lindsay E. Gregory**  
**Allison G. Grimenstein**  
**Allison A. Hastings**  
**Mary Elizabeth P. Haug**  
**Tara G. Havelly**  
**Lavelle Heard**  
**Jill E. Howard**  
**Sherita H. James**

**Chiffone N. Jordan**  
**Edward F. Koch, Jr.**  
**Reva M. Kraus**  
**Karen R. Ledbetter**  
**Nancy C. Lee**  
**Erica L. Leeds**  
**Gus F. Lohrum**  
**Andrew C. Loomis**  
**Tiffany A. Love**  
**Andrea M. Loy**  
**Colleen G. Lynch**  
**Sharon M. Mahoney**  
**Jennifer S. Malone**  
**Martha S. McCallie**  
**Shunda L. McCoy**  
**Roxie J. Moore**  
**Stacy L. Morgan**  
**Michelle Nicholas**  
**Sarah E. Nowitzke**  
**Jose A. Ortega**  
**Kathryn S. Patten**  
**Marius D. Patton**  
**Karen Perez**  
**Christina M. Polk**  
**Leonard C. Porter**  
**Teresa Nolen Pratt**  
**Corey D. Pulliam**  
**Colleen A. Reese**  
**Andrea R. Ritner**  
**Anna S. Safarik**  
**Christopher L. Sarver**  
**Uma Sharma**  
**Lauren E. Sheets**  
**Deborah G. Strand**  
**Marcy D. Sturgill**  
**Michelle A. Tapia**  
**Qwendolyn S. Thomas**  
**Veliska J. Thomas**  
**Rebecca J. Turner**  
**Michael A. Valdes**  
**Paula L. Van Buren**  
**Julie A. Walker-Cole**  
**Michael D. Waltke**  
**Cristina M. Ward**  
**Haley M. Watson**  
**Paula A. Welenc**

**Amber M. West**  
**Anita M. Wester**  
**Neena B. Westerbeck**  
**Gregory L. White**  
**Sallie I. Willett**  
**Carolyn S. Williams**  
**Marriah L. Wogomon**  
**Jill D. Youngson**

The motion carried.

**Review/Approve LCSW Applications by Examination and Reciprocity**

Upon review, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to ratify the following LCSW's by examination:

**Constance Bundrick**  
**Rita B. Clemons**  
**Melissa G. Webb-Oliver**  
**Paul K. Williams**  
**Barbara Dombey-Fersten**  
**Amanda Henson**  
**Bethany R. Ezell**  
**Sonya G. Stokes**  
**Eural D. Daniel, Jr.**  
**Theresa L. Carrington**  
**Steven W. Pharris**  
**Sarah B. Parsons**  
**Frances L. Cartwright**  
**William Samuels**  
**Jennifer Malone**  
**Mary E. Lamb**  
**Christine Wedoski**  
**Lorraine Dwyer**  
**Jody Dianna**  
**Kimberly S. Lawrence**  
**Ashley Schachterle**

The motion carried.

Upon review, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to ratify the following LCSW's by reciprocity:

**Elizabeth L. Stivers**  
**Kary Valdes**  
**Grace A. Bluerock**

**Dontrell H. Turner**  
**Jane M. Oberholtzer**  
**Cynthia A. Snyder**  
**Sally P. Kapela**  
**Leonora E. Foels**  
**Linda Jo Martin**

The motion carried.

**Review/Approve LCSW and CMSW Applicant Files**

Upon review of the application of **Michelle McGruder**, indicating incompleteness of required signed documents and unfavorable recommendation, a roll call vote was conducted and all board members answered in the affirmative, to delay approval and address Ms. McGruder's supervisor by letter and request additional information regarding unfavorable remarks.

Upon review of the application of **Trina Howard**, indicating past convictions, Ms. Mazzaferro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Howard for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Gary Richardson**, indicating several past convictions, Ms. Mazzaferro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to delay approval pending receipt of additional information regarding convictions. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Lorraine Lewis**, indicating a conviction of disorderly conduct, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to approve Ms. Lewis for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Laura Kent**, indicating a past conviction, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Kent for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Carlie R. Gaby**, indicating a past conviction of reckless driving, Ms. Mazzaferro made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Gaby for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Mary Romana**, indicating the use of a speaking device, medication and a letter from her speech pathologist, affirming the use of the mentioned items do not inhibit Ms. Romana's ability to work, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Romana for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Rachel Dolezal**, indicating the use of medications that do not inhibit her ability to work, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Dolezal for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Sara Novak**, indicating the use of medications that do not inhibit her ability to work, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded Ms. Esposito, to approve Ms. Novak for licensure as a CMSW. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Winifred Holcolmb**, indicating insufficient qualifications, Ms. Esposito made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to deny Ms. Holcolmb licensure as a LCSW and request she appear before the board. The motion carried.

Upon review of the reinstatement application of **Patricia Mackey**, requesting a waiver of continuing education requirements due to medical reasons, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. DeMott, to deny Ms. Mackey for reinstatement as a LCSW and require Ms. Mackey to complete continuing education requirements within sixty (60) days without having to re-submit an application. The motion carried.

### **Review/Approve Reinstated Applications**

Upon review, Ms. Housteau made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to approve the following CMSW's and LCSW's for reinstatement:

#### **CMSW**

**Lorraine K. Dwyer**  
**Jamie B. Love**  
**Sandra L. Ricks**  
**Alina R. Shook**

#### **LCSW**

**Beverly B. Anderson**  
**Elyse R. Folley**  
**Hillary M. Keith**

The motion carried.

### **Ratify Closed Files**

Upon review, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to ratify the closed files of the following applicants:

**Erin R. Harrington**  
**Courtney L. White**  
**Brook Moseley**  
**Joy R. Rudder**  
**Michael L. Warren**

**Sharon V. Ezekiel**  
**Tracy M. Newbern**  
**Susan M. Simmons-Martinelli**  
**Shannon R. Pennington**

The motion carried.

### **Board Business**

Karen Franklin, NASW, presented information on new legislation for social work to the board. Ms. Franklin stated NASW's task force has compared Tennessee social work laws to other states and is looking forward to begin legislation in January 2008. Ms. Franklin said some of the task force's findings indicate most states have three (3) levels of practice in social work, where Tennessee only has two (2) levels. Ms. Franklin stated the committee would like to see Tennessee regulate licensure on four (4) levels which include LBSW, LMSW, LCSW and LISW. Ms. Franklin said members of NASW would like to see an increase in professionalism and the State of Tennessee recognized for professional practices.

Upon discussion of adopting a policy regarding unreadable prints for Criminal Background checks, Ms. DeMott made a motion, seconded by Ms. Esposito, to adopt the following policy:

The board shall require the applicant to submit to an FBI/TBI fingerprint scan through the State of Tennessee's approved vendor or its equivalent as determined by the board.

The motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

Upon review of a letter from **Kymberly Spady-Grove, CMSW**, requesting utilization of telehealth technological equipment to perform the clinical supervision requirements for licensure as a LCSW, the board decided to address Ms. Spady-Grove by letter, requesting additional information regarding the use of the telehealth program and the person who will be providing her supervision.

With no further board business, Ms. Esposito made motion, seconded by Ms. Housteau, to adjourn meeting at 3:15 pm. The motion carried.