

GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,  
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS  
Conference Call Board Meeting Minutes – March 23, 2020 12:00 PM

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met via teleconference on, March 23, 2020 at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia with the following members present:

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Endsley Real, CSW, Chair  
Kathryn Klock-Powell, MFT, Vice-Chair  
Lorien Jordan, MFT  
Steve Livingston, MFT  
Chip Morris, CSW  
Angie Eells, CSW  
Bonnie Barker, LPC  
Tommy Black, LPC  
Lisa Morris, LPC

**MEMBERS ABSENT/VACANT SEATS:**

(Consumer Member-VACANT)

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:**

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director  
Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist  
Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

**ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE:**

Betsy Cohen, Esq., AAG

**Visitors Present:** The Board had roughly 50+ participants on today's call. The Board was unable to obtain the name of every participant on the call, but would like to thank everyone for being a part of today's meeting

**Endsley Real, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the Board meeting to order at 12:22 p.m.**

**Agenda:** Approved as presented

Board discussion on the adoption of emergency rules during the current national/state emergency COVID-19 pandemic.

1. The first order of business was discussion of waiving the "in person/participating" requirements for the number of continuing education hours required for the renewal of the professional licenses issued by the Board for this renewal cycle only (September 30, 2020 expiration date). Following discussion, the Board approved the following new rule language.

**135-9-0.3-.01 Emergency Rule: COVID-19 - In Person Continuing Education Requirements for Renewal 09/30/2020**

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, for the 2018-2020 renewal cycle only, there shall be no limit on the number of continuing education hours, including ethics hours, that may be obtained online, by any method. This rule shall be effective for the duration of the emergency and for a period of not more than 120 days thereafter.

**Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Klock-Powell seconded and the Board voted to adopt the emergency rule 135-9-.01(4)(a) above and for the rule to be sent to the Governor's office. None opposed, motion carried.**

2. The Board then turned their discussion to the required continuing education hours in Board Rule 135-11-01 Tele Mental Health. The discussion centered around there being certain skills and knowledge needed to be able to practice via electronic means with skill and safety; that the suggested subject areas for these CE hours listed in Board Rule 135-11 Tele Mental Health, at a

minimum, give licensees at least the basic additional skills and knowledge for such practice. To protect the public, the Board felt strongly that the obtainment of these few CE hours should not be waived. The 6 (9 for supervisors) hours may be obtained online and are readily available at low cost to everyone.

**With no additional Board business requiring discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at 1:27 p.m.**

Minutes recorded by:

Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist

Minutes reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC-1

**ENDSLEY REAL**

Chair

**BRIG ZIMMERMAN**

Executive Director

Minutes approved on: **April 3, 2020**