

GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
Conference Call Board Meeting Minutes – April 3, 2020 8:30 AM

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met via teleconference on Friday, April 3, 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:

Elizabeth Simpson, AAG
Betsy Cohen, Esq., AAG

VISITORS PRESENT: (Open Session)

The Board had roughly 50+ on the call including Board members and staff for the open session of the meeting. The Board was unable to obtain the names of the visitors, and as some dropped off the call, others called in. The Board would like to thank everyone for participating on today's meeting.

Endsley Real, Chair, established that a quorum was present and called the Board meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Agenda: Approve as presented

Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Eells seconded and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2-(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 (h) (2) & (4) to receive and review information pertaining to applications, conduct applicant interviews, receive reports from the Assistant Attorney General, the Professional Practices (Complaints), the Professional Standards (Applications) Committees and review prior meeting executive session meeting minutes. Voting in favor of the motion were Board members present: Real, Klock-Powell, Barker, Black, Mr. Morris, Ms. Morris, Jordan and Livingston.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, April 3, 2020, Ms. Real, declared the meeting into "open" session pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Applications:

The separate Professional Standards Committees reviewed and made recommendations on all applications presented by the administrative staff.

Mr. Livingston motioned, Ms. Eells seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendations of the committees made for the Associate and Professional Counselor applications, the Clinical and Master Social Worker applications and the Associate and Marriage and Family Therapy applications as presented. In addition, the Board voted that licenses be issued upon receipt of an official exam score report of passage of the exam if all other requirements for licensure have been met. None opposed, motion carried.

Professional Practices Committee/Complaints:

The Professional Practices Committee did not meet this month. Therefore, there was no PPC report presented to the Board during today's meeting.

Assistant Attorney General's Report:

Ms. Betsy Cohen, Assistant Attorney General, provided a status report, which included information on any cases referred for action, requests for advice and /or requests for authority for proposed rules.

Mr. Black motioned, Ms. Eells seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Assistant Attorney General's report as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session Correspondence:

- K.A. – Petition to Terminate Monitory Period
- R.R. – Denied Applicant
- T.G. – Non-Compliance

Recommendation:

Granted
For Board Information Only
Tabled; Pending receipt of additional information

Mr. Black motioned, Ms. Eells seconded, and the Board voted to accept the recommendation to respond as directed to K.A. as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Executive Session Minutes:

- March 5, 2020 PPC
- March 6, 2020 Board Meeting

Recommendation:

Approve as Amended
Approve as Presented

Ms. Jordan motioned, Ms. Barker seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 5, 2020 executive session professional practices committee meeting minutes as amended. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Eells seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 6, 2020 executive session Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

PLB Legal Section ADA Accommodations:

- P.A.
- D.C.
- C.E.
- K.T.

Recommendation:

Approve
Approve
Approve
Approve

Ms. Eells motioned, Ms. Jordan seconded, and the Board voted to ratify the ADA accommodations granted by the PLB legal Section as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ex. Session Misc. Discussion Items:

- TeleMental Health Requirements (Rule 135-11) - *Board Discussion Only (with Legal Counsel)*

Meeting Minutes:

- March 5, 2020 LPC PSC
- March 6, 2020 Board Meeting
- March 13, 2020 SW PSC
- March 23, 2020 Conf. Call

Recommendation:

Accept as Presented
Accept as Presented
Accept as Presented
Accept as Presented

Mr. Morris motioned, Mr. Livingston seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 5, 2020 LPC Professional Standards Rules Committee meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Jordan seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 6, 2020 Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Livingston motioned, Mr. Morris seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 13, 2020 Social Worker Professional Standards Rules Committee meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Jordan motioned, Ms. Barker seconded, and the Board voted to approve the March 23, 2020 Conference Call Board meeting minutes as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Correspondence:

- C. Dorminey, Valdosta State - CSWE Programs-COVID-19 - *The Board looks for the diploma from an accredited school. The Board does not have any authority over the issuing of degrees.*
- GA DBHDD - TeleMental Health Requirements – *Board addressed during Emergency Rule Proposal*

Ms. Klock-Powell motioned, Ms. Jordan seconded, and the Board voted to approve for Board Staff to respond as directed to correspondences listed above. None opposed, motion carried.

Emergency Rule Discussion:

- 135-11-.01(d) TeleMental Health Requirements – The Board drafted an emergency rule to allow Georgia licensees the ability to provide telemental services to clients during the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as a one (1) hour pre-assessment training course is completed and the remaining required hours completed within 6 weeks following the provision of services. The final review of the rule will be presented to the Board after this afternoon’s schedule Public Rules Hearing scheduled at 2:15 p.m.

Petition for Rule Waiver/Variance:

- R. Lichtiger
- J. Chesshire
- S. Harris

Recommendation:

Deny; No Hardship; Can’t waive GA Law
Deny; No Hardship
Deny; No Hardship; Can’t waive GA Law

Ms. Eells motioned, Ms. Jordan seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition request for R. Lightiger due to a unique, substantial and verifiable hardship not being demonstrated and the Board is not authorized to waive Board laws. None opposed, motion carried.

Mr. Morris motioned, Ms. Jordan seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition request for J. Chesshire due to a unique, substantial and verifiable hardship not being demonstrated. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Eells motioned, Mr. Black seconded, and the Board voted to deny the petition request for S. Harris due to a unique, substantial and verifiable hardship not being demonstrated and the Board is not authorized to waive Board laws. None opposed, motion carried.

Application Ratify List: Issued Date: 3/5/2020 - 4/1/2020

License No	Licensee
AMFT000624	Carrie Mae Arasmith
AMFT000625	Brenda Marie Pope
AMFT000626	Michael William Tanner
AMFT000627	Jennifer Nicole Taylor
AMFT000628	Alexis Lynn Wright
AMFT000629	Iesha Omega Lewis
APC007365	Jennifer Bell Jenkins
APC007366	Yackinneia N Roland
APC007367	Samantha Helen Bryant
APC007368	Maria Deanne Cannon
APC007369	Dyrell Anthony Carr

APC007370	Carlotta Desiree Cloud
APC007371	Caroline Susannah Crowe
APC007372	Heather Ashmore Engleman
APC007373	Lisa Ann Hightower
APC007374	Amanda Burton Hood
APC007375	Jacques Khorozian
APC007376	Nicole Ellen Lyon
APC007377	David Corneilus Trenell Manuel
APC007378	Brittany Mariel McCullar
APC007379	Dominick Anthony Pannazzo
APC007380	Rebecca Anne Peacock
APC007381	Thelsea Scott Raymonvil

APC007382	Holly Amelia Turton
APC007383	Christina Racquel White
APC007384	Helen Sharmaine Wilson
APC007385	Aderinola Y Aiyeola
APC007386	Earnest Terence Benson
APC007387	Shwana Marieka Burton
APC007388	Rosemary Gowett
APC007389	Michelle Yvette Leyden
APC007390	Connor Whitten Ondriezek
APC007391	Lisa Ann Peluso
APC007392	Rebecca McClung Stinson
APC007393	Rachel Aulene Wall
APC007394	Rashida Iman Whitley-Smith
APC007395	Shanon Joyce Thompson
APC007396	James E. Francis, Jr
APC007397	Jesaira LeShonda Glover
APC007398	Jenan Tasha McNealey
APC007399	Shontanae Imani Green
APC007400	Ashley Jennifer Tanzosh
CSW007093	Carlene Verona Battiste-Downie
CSW007094	Karen Ann Bisignano
CSW007095	Monique Van Bostic
CSW007096	Stephanie Butcher Mezei
CSW007097	Jennifer Dianne Cannon
CSW007098	Linda Carolyn Cooke
CSW007099	LaQuista Syreeta Erinna
CSW007100	Joanna Patricia Evans
CSW007101	Rebecca Newcomb Ferren
CSW007102	Julie Anna Gomez
CSW007103	Lynnelle Renee' Hayes
CSW007104	Beatrice Charlene Hutcherson
CSW007105	Chandy Virginia Page
CSW007106	Amy Jo Payne
CSW007107	Tara Louise Schoeller
CSW007108	Shannon Lee Weist
CSW007109	Julie Lynn Zemke
CSW007110	Nicole M. Williams
CSW007111	Jaime Nicole Hunn
CSW007112	Daniel Paul David
CSW007113	Grace Victorian Brooks
CSW007114	Natasha Lynet Williams
CSW007115	Amber Chante Gilbert
CSW007116	Natasha Vayner
CSW007117	Brooke Erin Larson
CSW007118	Jessica Lynn Gray
CSW007119	Nekita Denise Carter
CSW007120	Elizabeth Ann Jones
CSW007121	Rebekah Ruth Tchouta
CSW007122	Khaalida Zayn Van De Cruize
CSW007123	Chelsea Tanous Lawrence
LPC011449	Christina Anne Bancroft
LPC011450	Ebonie Antoine Barnes

LPC011451	Teronica Yvette Gaiter
LPC011452	Andrew Isles Galarneau
LPC011453	Camille Antoinette Guillaume
LPC011454	Kelly Danielle Jones
LPC011455	Judy Ann Lewis
LPC011456	Dana E Mills
LPC011457	Erika Lynn Rebstock DeGraff
LPC011458	Susan Rae Reid
LPC011459	Terri Peterson Sampson
LPC011460	Christie Marie Simons
LPC011461	Michele Diane Turner
LPC011462	Patrick Wilson
LPC011463	Jessica Lauren Albert
LPC011464	Clayton William Andrews
LPC011465	Valencia Rashaun Beard
LPC011466	Kendall Disa Benton
LPC011467	Alan Earl Bohnhoff
LPC011468	Jamie Leigh Brown
LPC011469	Mary Cole
LPC011470	Lashae Latoya Collins
LPC011471	Teristan Prince Sinatra Cooper
LPC011472	Anna Ruth Cowan
LPC011473	Travis Jamal Crafter
LPC011474	Monique R. Darnell
LPC011475	Katherine Bartle Gigis
LPC011476	Shamara Mone' Green
LPC011477	Dawn Howell Hadley
LPC011478	Marnise Harvey
LPC011479	Imani Sade' Hines
LPC011480	Tara Lynn Holdampf
LPC011481	Jill Hastings Howgate
LPC011482	Shelby Claire Sipe Humphry
LPC011483	Elizabeth Grace Kraich
LPC011484	Kevin Ramone Larkins
LPC011485	Rajeive Antwan Manradgh
LPC011486	Victoria Marie Maynez
LPC011487	Tammy LaTrice McCall
LPC011488	Samuel James McIntyre
LPC011489	Nicole Alyssa Miller
LPC011490	Courtney King Moore
LPC011491	Shanti Lolita Moore
LPC011492	Lauren T. Moss
LPC011493	Amanda Leigh Patterson
LPC011494	Haley Dowling Rykard
LPC011495	Akilah Roshanda Sabir
LPC011496	Angela Joy Spivy
LPC011497	Marlena Jewel Strong
LPC011498	Loretha Brown Tate
LPC011499	Erica Nicole Turner
LPC011500	Amy Denise Williams
LPC011501	Melissa Renee Garwick
LPC011502	Rakiya Lashun Williams
LPC011503	Krista Jean Behrens
LPC011504	Erica Nicole Chapman

LPC011505	Ashley Maddox Washington
LPC011506	Aiyana Marie Marshall
LPC011507	Twyla Suzanne O'Callaghan
MFT001759	Justin Tyler Moore
MFT001760	Sandra Jo Schoepke
MFT001761	Moe Ari Brown
MSW009328	Shaquan Lamar Belizaire
MSW009329	Vilma Suleima Castillo
MSW009330	Danielle Dambrosio
MSW009331	Stephanie Hemingway
MSW009332	Cynthia Gail Holifield
MSW009333	Stephanie Fastow Kupor
MSW009334	Krystal Lashaun Mims
MSW009335	Cynthia Frempomaa Ocansey
MSW009336	Essence Eunice Vinson
MSW009337	Susan Nicole Redden

MSW009338	Eden Gebreyohannes-Clay
MSW009339	Malika Takara Washington
MSW009340	Maryann Malena
MSW009341	Tonya Lynne Mitchell
MSW009342	Dawnovise Natalie Fowler
MSW009343	Ashlie Monique Milton
MSW009344	Heather Renee Bousquet
MSW009345	Eugene Alexander Pankey
MSW009346	Vernell LaTissha Gaines-Little
MSW009347	Shekeitha Kenedra Reid
MSW009348	Simone Monique Coats
MSW009349	Melissa Faye Hatchett
MSW009350	Jessyca Dameron Hayward
MSW009351	Yasmine J'Monica Martin
MSW009352	Mary Kate Ulshafer
MSW009353	Christina Andrea Mills
MSW009354	Susan Michelle Smith
MSW009355	Shemicka McToshia Hamilton

Ms. Eells motioned, Ms. Klock-Powell seconded, and the Board voted to accept the Application Ratify List of licenses issued between Board meetings as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

Please Note: *The Board adjourned this morning's conference call meeting after conducting the closed session, completing and reviewing all necessary discussion items and obtaining votes in open session at 11:00 a.m. The Board will meet again this afternoon to conduct the Public Rules Hearing scheduled for 2:15 p.m.*

Public Rules Hearing: 2:15 p.m.

The following Board members were present for the Friday, April 3, 2020 scheduled Public Rules Hearing: Endsley Real CSW, Chair, Kathryn Klock-Powell MFT, Vice Chair, Lorien Jordan, MFT, Steve Livingston, MFT, Chip Morris, CSW, Angie Eells, CSW, Tommy Black LPC, Lisa Morris, LPC and Bonnie Barker LPC.

Board Members Absent: Consumer member (Vacant Seat)

Administrative Staff present: Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, Linsey Joiner, Board Support Specialist and Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

Present from the Attorney General's Office: Betsy Cohen, AAG and Elizabeth Simpson, AAG

Court Reporter Present: Pat Hodges

VISITORS PRESENT: (Public Rules Hearing)

The Board had roughly 50+ visitors, Board members and staff on the call for the public rule hearing. The Board was unable to obtain the names of all the visitors, and as some dropped off the call others called in. The Board would like to thank everyone for participating in today's public rule hearing.

Ms. Real called the Public Rules Hearing to Order at 2:15 p.m.

There was one written submission received from GA LPCA during the thirty days pre hearing posting of the rules for public input and was discussed by the Board. Following the rule hearing and discussion regarding proposed amendments, including the guest's concerns cited and the one written submission, the Board voted on the following proposed rule amendment:

Note: underlined text is proposed to be added; ~~lined through text~~ is proposed to be deleted.

Rule 135-9-.01. Requirements – Beginning October 01, 2020

(1) Definitions:

(a) Synchronous activities require participants and instructors to be present at the same time. These activities can be face-to-face or online. Lectures, discussions, and presentations must occur at a specific time at which all participants are present. It may be a virtual classroom, but must allow participants to ask and teachers to answer questions instantly, either face-to-face, or through instant messaging. Synchronous activities may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. In-person (live): Participants are physically present at the location where the presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar is being held and are present for the entire length of the activity;
2. Webinars: A presentation, lecture, workshop, or seminar that is transmitted via the internet and allows full participation between the participants and the presenter(s); or,
3. Video conferencing: Participants are in two or more locations in a virtual conference room and communicate as if they were sitting right next to each other.

(b) Asynchronous activities are online courses or a recording of a previously held program that one can access on one's own schedule.

(c) Independent Study means a variety of self-directed professional study activities including, but not limited to, writing papers or books for presentation or publication; making presentations on major professional issues or programs; reading professional journals and books; preparing for initial consultation, teaching, or training assignments; and engaging in independent study, research, or tutorial projects.

(d) Academic Hour means one (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) clock hours of continuing education. One (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education.

(e) Core hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. professional counseling core hours must reflect professional counseling content, social work core hours must reflect social work content, and marriage and family therapy core hours must reflect marriage and family therapy content.

(f) Related hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of psychiatry, psychiatric nursing or psychology.

(2) Continuing Education Requirements:

(1) (a) Thirty-five (35) clock hours of continuing education are required biennially to be obtained within the two (2) year biennial licensure cycle to renew each license-, including associate level licenses. The biennial licensure cycle is the two (2) year period beginning October 1st of each even numbered year, and ending on September 30th of every subsequent even numbered year.

1. When the license is initially issued during the second year of the licensure cycle, on or after October 1st of each odd numbered year, no continuing education is required for the initial, first renewal of the license.
2. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements.
3. When a master social worker, associate professional counselor, or an associate marriage and family therapist level license is superseded by the issuance of a clinical social worker, a professional counselor or a marriage and family therapist license, Rule 135-9-.01(2)(a)(1) above does not apply, and the licensee is required to meet continuing education hours required for license renewal as set forth in Chapter 135-9.

(2) (b) A minimum of five (5) of the thirty-five (35) hours shall be specifically designated as continuing education in professional ethics relating to any of the specialties of Pprofessional Ccounseling, Ssocial Wwork, or Mmarriage and Ffamily Ttherapy. Ethics hours may shall be obtained through synchronous activities only. from any of the sources listed in paragraphs (5) and (6) (a) – (d) below. Continuing education hours in professional ethics cannot be obtained through independent study, or online Independent study is defined in paragraph (7) below

(3) (c) Of the remaining thirty (30) hours, a minimum of fifteen (15) shall be core hours and not more than fifteen (15) shall be related hours.

(4) (d) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education may be obtained online asynchronously for each two-year renewal period.

(5) (e) Core hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. PC core hours must reflect PC content, SW core hours must reflect SW content and

~~MFT core hours must reflect MFT content. Core hours may shall be obtained through graduate level education, conferences, workshops, seminars, or on-line synchronous or asynchronous courses activities approved for continuing education by organizations authorized to offer continuing education credit. Such activities shall be sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by:~~

~~(a) 1. a A professional association in the specialty in which the license is held; or .~~

~~(b) 2. An academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:~~

~~1. (i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board set forth in Chapter 135-5. Graduate level coursework listed on the transcript as "independent studies" must be well documented in order to be accepted by the Composite Board. Documentation can include, but is not limited to, a contract signed by the instructor of record.~~

~~2. (ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) ~~elek~~ hours of continuing education, and ~~an~~ one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) ~~elek~~ hours of continuing education, up to a maximum of twenty (20) hours or .~~

~~(c) 3. a A licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held.~~

~~(6) (f) Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Ppsychiatry, Ppsychiatric Nnursing, or Ppsychology, or Pastoral Ccounseling. Related hours may be obtained from:~~

~~(a) 1. a Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of Pprofessional Ccounseling, Ssocial Wwork, Mmarriage and Ffamily Ttherapy or the allied professions for Ppsychiatry, Ppsychiatric Nnursing, or Ppsychology, or Pastoral Ccounseling, or allied health specialties, or .~~

~~(b) 2. a Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of Pprofessional Ccounseling, Ssocial Wwork, Mmarriage and Ffamily Ttherapy or the allied professions of Ppsychiatry, Ppsychiatric Nnursing, or Ppsychology, or Pastoral Ccounseling.~~

~~1. (i) Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Ccounseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nnursing, or Psychology, or Pastoral Ccounseling and specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board as set forth in Chapter 135-5.~~

~~2. (ii) One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of fifteen (15) ~~elek~~ hours of continuing education, and ~~an~~ one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) ~~elek~~ hours of continuing education; or .~~

~~(c) 3. a Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of Professional Ccounseling, Social Work, Mmarriage and Ffamily Therapy or the allied professions of Ppsychiatry, Ppsychiatric Nnursing, or Ppsychology, or Pastoral Ccounseling or .~~

~~(d) 4. a Activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies, public school systems and licensed hospitals; or .~~

~~(7) (g) Independent Study is limited to five (5) hours in activities such as: teaching a course, presenting a lecture, or conducting a workshop for the first time; listening to audiotapes; viewing videotapes; reading books or articles which may contain exit quizzes; editing or writing professional books or articles; and conducting professional research. The licensee shall submit an affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed. No more than five (5) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study. Neither Ethics nor core hours may not be obtained through independent study, or online. Core hours may not be obtained through independent study. If selected for a continuing education audit at renewal, the licensee shall submit a notarized affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed.~~

~~(8)~~ (h) The professional association, academic department, licensing or certification board, state, or local government agency, ~~public school system~~ or licensed hospital that sponsors, co-sponsors or approves the continuing education activity shall certify the number of clock hours of education content in each activity. The certificate of attendance for the continuing education hours should include whether the activity was synchronous or asynchronous.

~~(9)~~ (i) A Standards Committee may, in its discretion, accept continuing education hours obtained from sources substantially similar to those listed in ~~(5 e)~~ and ~~(6-f)~~ above.

~~(10)~~ (j) No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be from any one continuing education or academic coursework, workshop, or presentation. This limit does not apply to professional conferences which offer multiple presentations.

~~(11)~~ (k) Any continuing education hour may be applied towards the renewal of a license in more than one specialty, provided that the continuing education hour meets the requirements set out in ~~(5 e)~~ or ~~(6-f)~~ above.

~~(12)~~ (l) Continuing education hours earned in professional ethics exceeding the five ~~(5)~~ required for renewal may be applied to meet requirements for core or related hours when they meet the requirements set out in ~~(5 e)~~ or ~~(6-f)~~ above.

~~(13)~~ (m) If, at the Board's request, a licensee completes a peer review of an alleged violation of the law or the Board's Rules, the licensee shall satisfy the five (5) hours of continuing education required in professional ethics. Such a review must be submitted as a written report to the Board.

~~(14)~~ When the license is initially issued during the second year of the renewal period after October 1 of the odd numbered year the continuing education requirements are deemed, by the Board, to impose an undue hardship upon the licensee; therefore, no continuing education is required for renewal. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements specified in the Board Rules, Chapter 135-9.

(3) Continuing Education (CE) Board Audit

(a) For those selected for a Board continuing education audit, the **CE Audit Reporting Form** is required to be submitted to the Board in addition to the certificates of attendance or other supporting documents. The Board will not review any CE documentation without the required audit form being included with the submission.

(b) If, following a continuing education audit, the Board disqualifies any of the documented continuing education hours and the licensee no longer meets the requirements set out in this Rule, 135-9-.01, the license will be renewed under the condition that the licensee obtains the required continuing education hours within six months of the notice of deficiency.

(c) If the licensee does not cure the deficiency within this six-month period, the license may be subject to discipline for failure to meet the requirements for renewal.

(4) Documentation

(a) Each licensee shall, for a period of four (4) years, maintain documentation of completion of continuing education hours. Licensees may utilize a data bank service. The Board will not maintain continuing education files for licensees.

(b) Licensees shall attest, on their biennial license renewal application, that they have satisfied the continuing education requirements as set forth in Chapter 135-9. False attestation of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action, including revocation.

(c) Each renewal cycle, the Board shall audit a fixed percentage of the renewal applications' continuing education hours. Licensees whose renewal applications are audited will be required to submit documentation of their continuing education activities. Except for independent study, such documents must be in the form of a certificate of attendance verifying whether activity is synchronous or asynchronous, a statement signed by the provider verifying participation in the activity, or an official transcript. Documentation of independent study shall be in the form of a notarized affidavit which includes a description of the activity, the subject material covered, the dates and numbers of hours involved.

Statutory Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1-25, 43-10A-5(c)(1), 43-10A-7(b)(9) through (11) for religious exemptions, and 43-10A-16.

Ms. Barker motioned, Ms. Klock-Powell seconded, and the Board voted to adopt Board Rule 135-9-.01 Requirements. None opposed, motion carried.

The purpose of this rule is to further define and clarify continuing education hours activities; to allow, for and define the acceptance of electronic means of presenting courses, seminars or other continuing education programs as in person activities.

Ms. Real adjourned the Public Rules Hearing at 2:44 p.m. However, after adjournment, the Board realized that had not discussed, reviewed or voted on Board rule 135-9-.02 Documentation. Ms. Real then called the Public Rules Hearing Back to order at 2:45 p.m. and reviewed the following rule:

Rule 135-9-.02. Documentation Repealed

~~(1) Each licensee shall maintain for three years their own record of the continuing education activities which they have completed. The Board will not maintain continuing education files for licensees.~~

~~(2) Licensees shall attest, on their biennial license renewal application, that they have satisfied the continuing education requirements set out in Rule 135-9-.01. Documentation of these activities should be retained by the licensee and not sent to the Board. False attestation of satisfaction of the continuing education requirements on a renewal application shall subject the licensee to disciplinary action, including revocation.~~

~~(3) The Board will audit a fixed percentage of the renewal applications. Licensees whose applications are audited will be required to document their continuing education activities. Except for independent study, such documents must be in the form of a certificate of attendance, a statement signed by the provider verifying participation in the activity, or an official transcript. Documentation of independent study shall be in the form of an affidavit which includes a description of the activity, the subject material covered, the dates and numbers of hours involved.~~

~~(a) In the event an audited licensee fails to provide the Board with documentation of the hours attested to on their renewal application, the license will not be renewed.~~

~~(b) If, following the audit, the Board disqualifies any of the documented continuing education hours and the licensee no longer meets the requirements set out in Rule 135-9-.01, the license will be renewed under the condition that the licensee obtains the required continuing education hours within six months of the notice of deficiency. If the licensee does not cure the deficiency within this six month period, the license will be subject to revocation for failure to comply with the continuing education requirements.~~

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-5(c)(1)

Ms. Barker motioned, Mr. Livingston seconded, and the Board voted to repeal Board Rule 135-9-.02 Documentation. None opposed, motion carried.

The Public Rules Hearing was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Emergency Rule Proposal:

135-11 Emergency Rule - TeleMental Health

The Board discussed on the adoption of an emergency rule for the opportunity for licensees to conduct TeleMental health with clients without having to obtain all of the required continuing education (CE) hours as outlined in the Board Rule 135-11-.01, during the current national/state emergency COVID-19 pandemic. Following discussion, the Board approved the following new rule language for Board rule 135-11 TeleMental Health:

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, notwithstanding any other rule or provision of law, the requirement in Rule 135-11-.01(b)(1)(i) and (2)(i) that training, in the form of continuing education hours, must be obtained prior to the use of telemental health services or telemental health supervision is hereby modified as follows:

(a) Individuals who have not obtained such training shall obtain at least one (1) hour of telemental health overview training prior to the delivery of telemental health services or telemental health supervision.

(b) The balance of the required continuing education hours shall be obtained within six (6) weeks of the date when the individual first engaged in telemental health services or telemental health supervision. This rule shall be effective for the duration of the State of Emergency and for a period of not more than 120 days thereafter.

Ms. Jordan motioned, Ms. Barker seconded and the Board voted to adopt the emergency rule 135-11 Emergency Rule - TeleMental Health revision above and for the rule to be sent to the Governor's office. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Klock-Powell motioned, Ms. Morris seconded and the Board voted to re-enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 (h) (2) & (4) to discuss the remaining applications requiring discussion. Voting in favor of the motion were Board members present: Real, Klock-Powell, Barker, Black, Mr. Morris, Ms. Morris, Jordan and Livingston.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Friday, April 3, 2020, Ms. Real, declared the meeting into "open" session pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq. No votes were taken in Executive Session.

Applications:

- S.I.
- C.P.
- S.H.

Recommendation:

Tabled; Pending receipt of additional information

Approve for licensure

Denied; does not meet licensure requirements outlined in Rule 135-5-.03

Ms. Morris motioned, Ms. Eells seconded and the Board voted to deny the application of S.H. for failure to meet the licensure requirements as outlined in 135-5-.03 Master Social Workers, as presented. None opposed, motion carried.

With no additional Board business requiring discussion, the Board meeting was adjourned at 3:41 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: **May 8, 2020**