

**BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**July 10, 2009**

The Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers met on July 10, 2009, at the Office of the Attorney General, 313 Northeast 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act and Open Meeting Act of Oklahoma.

**Members Present:**

Joy Leuthard, LSWA, Board Chair  
Gwendolyn Gibson, LCSW, Vice Chair  
Jeff Chace, LCSW, Secretary  
Antoinette Lempicki, LSW  
Larry Cassil, Jr., Esq.  
Lanny Endicott, LCSW

**Members Absent:**

Kelly Harmon, LMSW

**Also Present:**

Debra Schwartz, AAG  
Kandi Hoehner, Board Administrator  
Laura Maguire, Administrative Assistant

After roll call and noting that a quorum was present, Ms. Leuthard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Ms. Leuthard stated this agenda is for a review of the complaint matter regarding **Matthew Atkinson**. Mr. Atkinson, appearing with his attorney, Steve Cortes, submitted an agreement to surrender his license for two years, in lieu of a disciplinary action proceeding.

Mr. Cortes stated that Mr. Atkinson is currently not working in the social work clinical area. According to Mr. Cortes, Mr. Atkinson would waive his rights to a full hearing and surrender his LCSW license, #3143. He would agree not to renew or attempt to renew this license for a period of two years, beginning July 15, 2009. He will not engage in any activity providing clinical social work during that two-year period.

Mr. Cassil moved to enter into executive session. Mr. Chace seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Mr. Chace moved to come out of executive session. Ms. Lempicki seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Mr. Atkinson told the Board that he is currently providing consultation in program organizing and developing community services. He held a workshop in April on counseling techniques.

Mr. Cassil said the Board has considered the agreement to surrender license in lieu of disciplinary proceedings and found it to be inadequate, given the gravity of the allegations made.

Mr. Cassil moved pursuant to 59 O.S. § 1271.1, entitled Temporary Suspension of License, that the Board temporarily suspend Mr. Atkinson's license to practice social work for 60 days from the date upon which the Board sends written notice to Mr. Atkinson specifying the statute and rules which have been violated. In that notice, a full disciplinary hearing should be scheduled within thirty days, to allow counsel time to prepare for hearing. When the notice of suspension is sent, Mr. Atkinson will have to surrender his license and wallet card. Ms. Lempicki seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

The Board requested Ms. Schwartz to continue negotiations with Mr. Cortes in an attempt to reach an agreed order and avoid a hearing.

When asked by Ms. Schwartz as to what they might find acceptable in an agreement, the Board responded with the following suggestions:

- 1). Reimbursement of funds in the amount the Board has incurred as a result of conducting an investigation.
- 2). Revocation in lieu of suspension.
- 3). Acknowledgement that revocation would be reported to DARS.
- 4). Acknowledgement of allegations.

Ms. Schwartz stated that if an agreement is made, the matter would come back before the Board.

Mr. Atkinson and Mr. Cortes left the meeting.

The Board scheduled Monday, August 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. for the special meeting date regarding Mr. Atkinson's license.

There being no further business, Mr. Cassil moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. Mr. Chace seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in the affirmative.