

A P P R O V E D
VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
INFORMAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004

TIME & PLACE: The Informal Conference Committee convened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 11, 2004, at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Fifth Floor, Richmond, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon C. Ekleberry, LCSW, Chair
Fredrick D. Weston, LCSW

STAFF PRESENT: Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Julie Messersmith, Senior Adjudication Analyst
Arnice Covington, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Foster, Esquire

CONFERENCE
SCHEDULED: **BONNIE FERGUSON, LCSW**

Ms. Ferguson appeared before the Informal Conference Committee on Friday, June 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. to review allegations that she may have violated portions of the laws and regulations governing the practice of social work in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Chair recognized Ms. Ferguson and Ms. Foster and invited their comments regarding the allegations. Ms. Ferguson's attorney, Donna Foster, made an opening statement.

Mr. Weston moved that the Committee convene in a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel. Mr. Weston further moved that Ms. Brown, Ms. Messersmith and Ms. Covington attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its consideration of the matter.

The Committee reconvened in open session.

Mr. Weston moved that the Informal Conference Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom on Information Act and

only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried.

Mr. Weston moved that the Committee convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(28) of the *Code of Virginia* for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of Ms. Ferguson regarding the allegations outlined in the Notice of Hearing. Additionally, Mr. Weston moved that Ms. Brown, Ms. Messersmith and Ms. Covington attend the closed meeting because their presence in the closed meeting is deemed necessary, and their presence will aid the Committee in its deliberations.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The Committee reconvened in open session.

Mr. Weston moved that the Informal Conference Committee certify that it heard, discussed or considered only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom on Information Act and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened. The motion was seconded and carried.

ACTION:

The Committee moved to continue the matter generally for a period of one year with terms and conditions.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Conference was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Sharon C. Ekleberry, LCSW

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Board of Social Work