

State of Alaska
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
June 6th, 2016

By Authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners was held Friday June 6th, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska.

Friday, June 6th, 2016

Agenda item #1 **Call to order:**

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Thiesen at 8:58 a.m.

Roll call:

Laura Thiesen, Chairperson
Angie Christiansen
Danielle LaFon
Zachary Paulson
Rachel Olson

Board staff:

Chelsea Childress – Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item #2 **Review Agenda**

Move the correspondence regarding the Sexual Addiction and Countertransference courses being applicable for the Substance Abuse and Ethics requirements to 'New Business'.

A motion duly made by Mr. Zachary Paulson, seconded by Ms. Danielle LaFon, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as amended.

Agenda item #3: Administrative Business

Ethics report:

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

Review Meeting Minutes:

Minor changes for spelling, grammar and punctuation made to the minutes for the following meetings:

- *February 26-27, 2015*
- *August 27-28, 2015*
- *December 4, 2015*
- *February 1, 2016*
- *March 4, 2016*

Minutes for May 14th-15th, 2015 signed for as approved by Chairperson, Laura Thiesen and Records & Licensing Supervisor, Dawn Hannasch.

Agenda item #3: Administrative Business (continued)

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed a few email correspondences regarding:

- Specific supervision requirement (100 hours) and timing of employment
 - The Board determined that per AS 18.115 “to be adequately distributed among the supervised period” and that no, they may not obtain 100 direct supervision hours within a year. The supervised requirement is 2 years minimally, so the 100 hours must be evenly distributed among these 2 years.
- DIVIT training and zerotothree CEU’s
 - The Board determined that the DIVIT training (Domestic Violence Interview Training) is a police course and is not applicable to social work. Madam Chair requested the certificate for zerotothree be presented first before determining if this course would be applicable for renewal.
- Exam Extension – Catherine Holloway
 - **The board resolved to approve this request – approved by unanimous consent.**
- Telehealth inquiry regarding Federal Employee exemptions and working through the VA
 - We currently don’t have any stats and regulations for telehealth other than SB 74 that just passed. We are currently putting together drafts for adopted regulation changes, but without these regulations already in place, there is nothing precluding him from doing so.
- Spanish Language CEU question
 - The Board determined that the course requested (Spanish 101) is not applicable to social work and cannot be used for renewal credit.

Ms. Childress will reply to all inquiries via email.

Task list:

The Board reviewed the FY16 task list while reviewing the annual report.

Agenda item #6 **Application review**

Begin application review

Agenda Item #4 **Investigative report**

The Board was joined by Investigator Lipker, Investigator Howes and Investigator Riefle at 9:48AM.

The issue of the turnover for investigators was discussed.

Ms. Lipker went over the Investigative Report with us - the Board did not have any questions or comments.

Agenda item #7 **Application review**

Continue with application review

Break @ 10:20 AM

Back @ 10:31 AM

Agenda item #8 **Division update**

The Board was joined by Administrative Officer, Martha Hewlett and Operations Manager, Sarah Chambers at 2:05PM.

Ms. Hewlett went over the FY16 Quarter 3 financial report. Ms. Hewlett also provided an overview for the 1st and 2nd quarter FY16 reports.

Ms. Hewlett explained the accounting codes and how there are 'projections' or estimates. Mr. Paulson observed no 3rd party reimbursements were noted on our report. Ms. Hewlett explained how the 3rd party reimbursement works and why we wouldn't be able to see the definite total until the end of the 4th quarter. Ms. Hewlett also explained the 'cap' of \$50,000 for 3rd party reimbursement, a policy that makes all reimbursements awarded to any board be deposited into this pool. Once this pool has reached \$50,000, all of the funds superseding this amount get transferred into the general fund. There wasn't much agreeance for this policy, but Ms. Hewlett also explained that the 3rd party reimbursements are appropriately collocated per the board that brings in the reimbursement so that if the funds do exceed \$50,000 then the money that is lost essentially is evenly disbursed between all the boards, so not one board is losing out on all their 3rd party reimbursement funds. The board questioned why the gap was

necessary and it was explained that the 3rd party reimbursement cap could be raised if needed, but up until this point the cap hasn't been superseded. R

Agenda item #5 **New Business**

The discussion of sexual addiction courses being used to satisfy the Substance Abuse requirement took place. The Board determined that, Per 12 AAC 18.990(8) Definitions – “substance abuse education” means a structured educational experience such as a course, lecture, workshop or other organized training that focuses on substance abuse as it applies to social work practices”, they wouldn't be applicable. Since the statute is clear on stating substance abuse, not just addiction, we cannot take any courses to satisfy these requirements without chemical/substance relations. It was discussed how it would be a regulation change to update this language, and a statutory change to update the requirement itself.

The discussion of countertransference courses being used to satisfy the Ethics requirement took place. The Board determined that, while countertransference can be an ethical issue, it wouldn't actually become an ethical issue unless boundaries were crossed. Countertransference, by definition, is the emotional reaction of the analyst to the subject's contribution. As determined by the Board, countertransference would only be an ethical issue if there were actions taken following the emotional reaction(s). Therefore, no countertransference courses will be accepted to satisfy the Ethics requirement – however they will continue to be accepted for the general CEU requirement.

Ms. LaFon addressed concerns regarding the following question on the SW application and renewal form: “Since the date of your last application have you experienced or been treated for bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, paranoia, a psychotic disorder, substance abuse, or any other mental or emotional illness which may impair or interfere with your ability to practice as a Social Worker?” Ms. LaFon expressed concern regarding an applicant's resistance to seek treatment when needed due fear of the consequences from disclosure and the stigmatization that this question poses towards mental illness. The discussion furthered that social workers are encouraged to seek treatment for mental or emotional illness therefore this question may be counterproductive. The Board determined that they will investigate whether the Board has the ability to modify questions on the application and/or renewal forms and seek consultation from the Division manager.

Agenda item #6 **Old Business**

No old business.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:42 am

The Board returned on the record at 1:12 pm

Public Comments:

No comments.

Agenda item #7 Application review

Conclude application review

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Angela Christiansen and seconded by Ms. Danielle LaFon, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska:

Clinical Social Work by Exam

Kelly Diguilio
Michelle Lesagonicz
Kimberly Runyan
Mary Eberle
Stephanie Hixson
Chelsea Dunham
Alia Williams

Clinical Social Work by Credentials

Marla Moore
Karen John
Kenneth Youngberg
Deborah Young
Donna Delevante

Master Social Work by Exam

Lindsay Bothe
Christina Davis
Lindsay Henkelman

Baccalaureate Social Work by Exam

Bobbie Anderson

Continuing Education Approvals

JSPC Conference – Juneau Suicide Prevention Coalition
Tlingit Spirituality – Pamela Baker-Williams, LCSW
Nukka Conference – Southcentral Foundation

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Danielle LaFon and seconded by Ms. Rachel Olson, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications pending completion of application files.

CE Providers
ARC Training

Clinical Social Work by Exam
Kjersti Bowen
Sarah Shaddy-Farnsworth
Sharon Lilja
Kathryn Frutiger

Clinical Social Work by Credentials
Rachel Nielsen

Masters Social Work by Exam
Joshua Stein

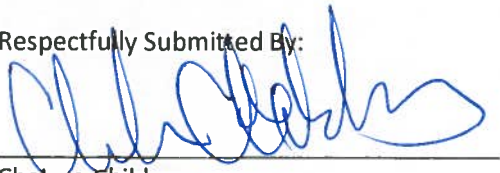
Masters Social Work by Credentials

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Zachary Paulson and seconded by Ms. Rachel Olson, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to adjourn the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Adjourned at 3:10 pm

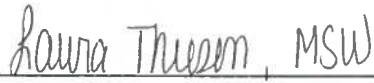
Respectfully Submitted By:



Chelsea Childress
Occupational Licensing Examiner
State of Alaska, CCED

11-2-2014

Date



Laura Thiesen
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

10-10-16

Date