

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

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
December 1st and 2nd, 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 Thursday December 1st, 2016 and Friday December 2nd, 2016 via teleconference.

Thursday, December 1st, 2016

Agenda item #1 Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Thiesen at 9:19 a.m.

Roll call:

Laura Thiesen, Chairperson

Angie Christiansen

Danielle LaFon

Zachary Paulson – Absent – Unexcused

Rachel Olson

Board staff:

Chelsea S Childress, Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item #2 Review Agenda

The discussion of travel was added to the agenda under “old business”. Licensing Examiner Chelsea Childress stated that the note regarding complaints should have been removed from “Administrative Business”.

A motion duly made by Ms. Danielle LaFon, seconded by Ms. Angie Christiansen, 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:

After review, the Board determined there were no corrections to the drafted minutes for September 22nd and 23rd, 2016. Licensing Examiner Chelsea Childress will send the final minutes to Chairperson Laura Thiesen to sign and return. Upon receipt of the signed minutes, Ms. Childress will post them to the State of Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners webpage.

A motion duly made by Ms. Angie Christiansen, seconded by Ms. Danielle LaFon, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the September 22nd and 23rd, 2016 meeting minutes as drafted; no revisions or corrections required.

Chairperson Thiesen mentioned the wall certificates, noting delivery via US post to Vice Chairperson Paulson for signatures. Ms. Childress stated she received an email from Mr. Paulson notifying her that the certificates were going in the mail. Upon receipt of the signed certificates, Ms. Childress will mail them to the appropriate recipients.

Correspondence:

Due to the board holding a telephonic meeting, Ms. Childress had been sending correspondence questions and inquiries to the Board via email. Ms. Childress presented one inquiry for discussion regarding the program eligibility requirements for an applicant applying for licensure.

Social Workers Statutes and Regulations Sec.08.95.110 (a)(1) states an individual will be granted a license if they, in addition to other license requirements, have received a degree from a program approved by the Board.

Sec. 08.95.110. License requirements.

(a) The board shall issue a license to practice clinical social work to a person who

(1) has received a master's degree or a doctoral degree in social work from a college or university, approved by the board;

While there are no statutes or regulations noting requirements for degree programs, the Board has historically accepted degrees from programs accredited by the CSWE (Council on Social Work Education). The inquiry received specifically asked if individuals could apply for licensure with a degree from a program in the CSWE Candidacy Status. In the correspondence it was noted that the process for accreditation through CSWE can take 3 years or more to achieve.

Concluding discussion, the Board agreed to accept completed degrees for individuals applying for licensure from a program in CSWE Candidacy status. However, the program must be in the process of accreditation; this motion does not apply to an applicant from a university or program that is not accredited.

A motion duly made by Ms. Danielle LaFon, seconded by Ms. Angie Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve applicants who graduate from a program with in-candidacy accreditation status or already accredited through CSWE, and to review applicants graduating from a program that is not accredited by CSWE (or in the process of accreditation) on a case by case basis.

Liaison and Conference Report:

Ms. LaFon noted she presented to the UAF social work students about the Board, the purpose of the Board, and licensing requirements in Alaska.

Agenda Item #4 Investigative report

At 9:46 AM the Board was joined by Investigators Brian Howes, Amber Whaley and Sonia Lipker.

Inv. Howes informed the Board that Inv. Lipker is being reassigned to the CSW board again. Investigator Lipker explained that the Investigations Division has the tendency to shuffle boards around due to staff changes, training, etc.

Investigator Howes reviewed the investigative report for the period of August 31st, 2016 through November 30th, 2016. Three (3) matters remain ongoing and under review; the Division opened two (2) matters and closed zero (0) matters. The probationary portion remains unchanged with two (2) cases to report; one in compliance and one on hold.

Agenda item #5 New Business

Ms. Childress had a question regarding applicants and applying via exam vs. credentials. Ms. Childress' inquiry was specifically regarding clinical level licensure.

Social Workers Statutes and Regulations Sec.08.95.110 (a)(6) states an individual will be granted a license if they, in addition to other license requirements, have satisfactorily completed the examination given by the Board for clinical social work licensing.

Sec. 08.95.110. License requirements.

- (a) The board shall issue a license to practice clinical social work to a person who
(6) has satisfactorily completed the examination given by the board for clinical social worker
licensing;*

Regarding clinical licensure via credentials, under Sec 08.95.120 (a)(1) it states an individual will be granted a license if they, in addition to other license requirements, hold a current license in another jurisdiction with equal or more stringent requirements.

Sec. 08.95.120. Licensing by credentials.

- (a) The board shall issue a license to practice clinical social work if the applicant
(1) holds a current license to practice clinical social work in another jurisdiction that at the time of original
issuance of the license, had requirements for licensure equal to or more stringent than those of this state;*

Regarding clinical licensure via examination, under 12 AAC 18.100 (b) it states an individual that completes the requirements for licensure under (a) will be reviewed by the Board to determine eligibility to sit for the exam. Clause (c) states that the applicant will have to sit for the examination within one year of the approval date.

12 AAC 18.100. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE BY EXAMINATION.

- (b) After the applicant has submitted the application, documents, and fees required in (a) of this section, the board
will review the application to determine if the applicant meets the requirements of AS 08.95.110 and (a) of this
section.*

(c) Once an application is approved by the board, the applicant must sit for the examination within one year from the date of board approval. For good cause shown, the board will, in its discretion, grant a written request from an applicant for an extension of time to sit for the examination.

There is no clause under Sec 08.95.120 or 12 AAC 18.100 that indicates what a licensee should do if they have already passed the examination, but don't qualify for licensure via credentials due to not having an active license in another state. Ms. Childress has 2 licensees with unique situations where they don't have an active LCSW, but have successfully passed the ASWB Clinical level exam.

Upon further deliberation, the Board determined that the individuals that do not have a current equivalent license in another jurisdiction must apply via examination; if approved, per 12 AAC 18.100 (c), he/she must retake the examination through ASWB within 1 year of the date of approval.

A motion duly made by Ms. Danielle LaFon, seconded by Ms. Angie Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to require individuals to retake the ASWB exam per the level of licensure they're applying for if they have not met the requirements for licensure via credentials, after receiving approval for licensure via exam.

Agenda item #6 Old Business

Travel:

Madam Chairperson, Laura Thiesen brought up the issue of travel requests, the delay of receiving approvals, and not being able to attend useful trainings or conferences that are fully funded, 3rd party reimbursed. Ms. Thiesen's concerns were addressed specifically in regards to the request for the Delegates Assembly in November offered by ASWB not being approved in time. Ms. Christiansen mentioned that it was a struggle to get her trip approved in August for the New Board Member Training also fully funded 3rd party reimbursed by ASWB.

Licensing Examiner, Chelsea Childress noted that the travel requests are recommended to be submitted at least 6-8 weeks in advance. Travel requests require prior approval from her supervisor before being forwarded to the Commissioner; if it is an out-of-state travel request it also requires review and approval from the Governor.

Ms. Thiesen noted she wants to ensure we have a delegate to attend the Spring Conference offered by ASWB is in April of 2017. The conference is in Henderson, Nevada and is not a fully funded 3rd party reimbursed conference. The conference is an educational conference, and would ideal for a social worker to attend. Due to being an out-of-state approval, Ms. Childress noted we need Governor's approval and that she needs to know who will be the delegate ASAP.

It was discussed that each board member may only take one out-of-state trip per year. Due to this factor, Ms. Christiansen wouldn't be able to attend the spring conference. Ms. LaFon mentioned she is unable to attend due to other responsibilities. Ms. LaFon also mentioned her difficulties with receiving her approval for the 2015 Spring Education Conference one week prior to scheduled departure. The Board was in agreeance that Ms. Thiesen would be the delegate for the 2016 Spring Educational Conference.

Ms. Thiesen mentioned that we'll have a new board member appointed in March of 2017, and that we'll need to look into sending them to the ASWB New Board Member Training. This meeting is a fully funded 3rd party reimbursed training offered by ASWB.

The Board discussed holding the March 2017 meeting in person due to having a new board member, discussing Statute and Regulation drafts and the difficulties with discussion via teleconference, and that this is our 3rd consecutive meeting being held via teleconference.

The Board discussed that we would need to start thinking of a new Chair/Vice Chair due to the terms for Laura Thiesen ending in 2018 and Zachary Paulson ending in 2017. Upon completion of discussion, the Board determined Ms. LaFon will assume the role as active Chairperson, effective March 2017; Ms. Christiansen will assume the role as active Vice-Chairperson, effective March 2017.

Agenda item #4 (Day 2) Statutes and Regulations Discussion

Ms. Childress provided draft language from other States and from the Alaska MFT Board to give the Board an idea on where to start.

Ms. Thiesen suggested we form a subcommittee in order to get a draft done in time for the deadline. Ms. Christiansen volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee with Ms. Thiesen.

Break at 10:29 AM

Return from break at 10:37 AM

Agenda item #7 Division update

The Board was joined by the Divisions Operations Manager, Sara Chambers at 11 AM.

Ms. Chambers went over the FY16 Quarter 4 financial report. Ms. Thiesen clarified that we were financially okay and asked how that would affect our ability to hold in person meetings next year. Ms. Chambers expressed that, while the board is in surplus, there should still be cautious planning. Ms. Thiesen expressed frustration due to raising fees for the past two renewals and still hearing concern about the Board's financial standing. Ms. Childress mentioned the main concern is the new board member being appointed next March, and having telephonic meetings isn't the most efficient way to introduce a new member to the policies and procedures for meetings.

Ms. Chambers explained that we are in a better financial standing than FY15, FY14 and FY13, but there isn't much cushion to absorb extra costs (such as in person meetings) if you predict the expenses for your next biennial renewal. Ms. Chambers also explained that there's room to conduct board business, but keeping an eye on finances is advisable. We should continue to conduct business in a fiscally conservative way, but if we need an in person meeting to conduct board business than we should plan accordingly - especially with appointment of a new member.

Agenda item #8 Application review

Ms. Childress provided the secured website information via email for the Board to gain access. Ms. Childress requested the Board begin review with the Audit's.

Break for lunch at 12:00 PM
Back on record at 1:07 PM

Agenda Item #7 Public Comments

1:07 PM -- No public comments.

Agenda item #8 Application review

Upon return from lunch, the Board continued with application review.

Break at 3:05 PM
Back on record at 3:14 PM

Upon return from break, the Board continued with application review. The Board reviewed applications until the end of the meeting.

Before adjourning Ms. Thiesen inquired about the meeting start time tomorrow, December 2nd. It was noted on the schedule to call to order at 9 AM. Ms. Thiesen suggested we call to order earlier, beginning at 8 AM, to ensure we complete all scheduled board business. The Board was in unanimous agreement.

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

RESOLVED to call the meeting to order at 8 AM Friday, December 2nd, 2016.

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

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

Adjourned at 4:45 pm

Friday, December 2nd, 2016

Agenda item #1 Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laura Thiesen at 8:02 a.m.

Roll call:

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

Board staff:

Chelsea S Childress, Licensing Examiner

Agenda item #8 Application review

After calling the meeting to order, the Board began application review.

Break at 9:58 AM
Back on Record at 10:15 AM

The Board continued with application review.

The Board entered executive session at 11:13 AM for the purpose of discussing applications for review.
The Board exited executive session at 11:35 AM to continue with application review.

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

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska:

Clinical Social Work by Exam
Kimberly Brown
Dagmar Mayer
Molly Vanderweit
Paul Gaines
Taimur Khan
Pamela Shepherd
April McLamb

Clinical Social Work by Credentials

Kristin Hansen

Master Social Work by Exam

Jana Gumley

Tiffiney McKeehan

Cynthia Barrand

Joni Stamm

Master Social Work by Credentials

Rachael Bazzett

Baccalaureate Level by Exam

Devin Johnson

Extensions & Supervision Requests

Sheila Baker

Mary Campbell

Nancy Kirchoff

Audits

Amy Smith

Brittany Beaujean

Dana Webster-Smith

Daniel Gerstenfield

Diane McEachern

Jeanette Lacey Dunn

John Weaver

John McQueen

Laura McKenzie

Marilyn Kerr

Michael Zaccardi

Natalie Lewis

Pamela Baker-Williams

Patrick Albert

Reta Sullivan

Shana Haas

Trinidad Ruiz

Valerie Gifford

Reinstatements

Kathryn Frankforter

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

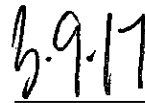
RESOLVED to adjourn the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Adjourned at 1:17 PM

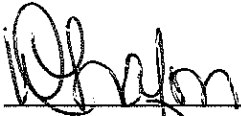
Respectfully Submitted By:



Chelsea Childress
Occupational Licensing Examiner
State of Alaska, CCED



Date



Danielle LaFon
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners



Date