

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

CONDENSED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD DECEMBER 12, 2022

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Location: 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor, Juneau, AK 99801 via Zoom

Attending: Brandon Ercanbrack, Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Board Chairperson; Amber Taylor, Licensed Master Social Worker; Ann Applebee, Licensed Clinical Social Worker; Sharon Woodward, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker; Stefanie Davis, Occupational License Examiner

Absent: n/a

1. Call to order/Roll Call

Chairperson **Brandon Ercanbrack** called the meeting to order at **8:58am**

2. Review/Approve Agenda

A motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Sharon Woodward, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as written.

3. Ethics Disclosures

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

4. Division Update

Melissa Dumas joined the meeting

A. 4th Quarter Report FY2022

Melissa Dumas presented the board's financial report for the fourth quarter of FY2022. The revenue for the board through June of 2022 was \$376,435.00, of which \$49,705.00 was received from the general fund*, the direct expenditures for the board were \$180,157.00. The board's total expenditures were \$264,436.00. Currently the surplus for the board is \$154,589.00 with a carry-over of \$42,590.00 in surplus from the prior year. A fee analysis is recommended once fee increases are reinstated.

*General funds are requested as supplemental funds from the Legislature as the Division is unable to increase fees due to a mandate from the Governor. The general funds help offset the lost revenue due to the inability to increase fees.

B. 1st Quarter Report FY2023

Melissa Dumas presented the board's financial report for the first quarter of FY2023. The revenue for the board through September of 2022 was \$46,205.00. The direct expenditures for the board were \$35,844.00.

The board's total expenditures were \$56,915.00. Currently the surplus for the board is \$143,879.00 with a carry-over of \$154,589.00 in surplus from the prior year.

C. Fee Analysis

A fee analysis will be prepared prior to the March 2023 meeting. Currently the Division is still unable to increase fees. If a fee increase is required, general funds will be requested from the Legislature to cover costs.

5. Review Minutes – September 13-14, 2022

A motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Amber Taylor, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the minutes from the September meeting.

6. Legislative Training

Division Director Sara Chambers joined the meeting

Director Chambers inquired about what the board would like to accomplish for legislative changes this year. In the board's annual report, they noted that they would like to continue working on Right Touch Regulation changes to their statutes. The board may also want to make adjustments to the examination statute language. This is currently in discussion. Director Chambers explained the process regarding statute changes. The board will further discuss this during their 2023 meetings. No action is being taken at this time.

7. BREAK

The board went off record at 10:42am

Back on the record at 11:00am

8. Old Business

A. Position Statement Update – Alternate/Distance Supervision Requests

An updated Position Statement was prepared and approved by the board after the regulation change went into effect for 12 AAC 18.115: Supervision of Experience for Clinical Social Work License. The updated Position Statement has been posted on the Board's website and is available here:

https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/5/pub/CSWAlternate&DistanceSupervisionRequests_2022.pdf

B. Social Work Compact

Board chair Brandon Ercanbrack is the point-person for Social Work Compact updates. This was briefly discussed during the ASWB Delegate Assembly. There is a draft prepared that can be reviewed here:

<https://www.aswb.org/compact-draft-language-available-for-comment/>.

9. Board Member Updates

A. ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly

Board chair Brandon Ercanbrack was the delegate for Alaska for the ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. The majority of the meeting involved voting on positions for the ASWB board. The information on those positions is provided on the ASWB website. There was a brief discussion regarding the ASWB Examination data that was released. A few national organizations came out immediately stating that the ASWB Examination should not be used as the data does not show equal passing scores for those in different minority groups. ASWB assisted board members by providing additional information to answer any concerns

people may have. ASWB also is a resource to direct people to, so their questions can be answered directly. ASWB is aware of this information, and is working within their organization and others to better assist in equal passing scores.

10. Public Comment

Public comment opened at 11:45am. No persons present for public comment.

11. LUNCH

The board took a recess for lunch at 11:58am

The board returns from recess and is back on record at 1:00pm

Amber Taylor has excused absence until 1:30pm

12. Regulation Review/Update

Regulations Specialist Alison Osborne joined the meeting

The board reviewed the drafted regulation changes proposed during the previously board meeting. These regulation changes include requiring 3 suicide prevention CEs for initial licensure and renewals, and prorating CEs for renewals if licensed for less than 12 months. Drafted language was prepared, presented to the board, and reviewed. Proposed language for all three regulation changes is as follows:

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.)

12 AAC 18.112(2)(B) is amended to read:

12 AAC 18.112. Continued competency.

(B) the continuing education requirements described in

12 AAC 18.210(a)(1), (3), [AND] (4), **and (5)**. (Eff. 10/14/99, Register 152; am 8/29/2003, Register 167; am 3/26/2020, Register 233; am ___/___/_____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 08.95.030 AS 08.95.120

12 AAC 18.210 is amended to read:

12 AAC 18.210. CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENT. (a) For the first biennial renewal of a person's social worker license, an applicant for renewal shall document completion of 45 contact hours of continuing education activities acceptable to the board that were earned during the two years before the expiration date of the person's license that included a minimum of

- (1) six contact hours in substance abuse education;
- (2) six contact hours in cross-cultural education relating to Alaska Natives;
- (3) three contact hours in professional ethics; [AND]
- (4) three contact hours in teletherapy practice[.]; **and**
- (5) three contact hours in suicide prevention.**

(b) After a person's first biennial renewal of a social worker license, an applicant for renewal shall document completion of 45 contact hours of continuing education activities acceptable to the board that were earned during that licensing period and included a minimum of

- (1) six contact hours in substance abuse education;
- (2) six contact hours in cross-cultural education, of which three hours include issues relating to Alaska Natives;
- (3) three contact hours in professional ethics; [AND]

(4) three contact hours in teletherapy practice[.] ; **and**

(5) three contact hours in suicide prevention.

(c) **An applicant for renewal of a license under this Chapter who has been licensed for less than 12 months of the concluding license period shall document completion of 21 contact hours of continuing education activities acceptable to the board that were earned during that licensing period and included a minimum of**

(1) six contact hours in substance abuse education;

(2) six contact hours in cross-cultural education relating to Alaska Natives;

(3) three contact hours in professional ethics;

(4) three contact hours in teletherapy practice; and

(5) three contact hours in suicide prevention. (Eff. 9/26/91, Register 119; am 10/14/99, Register 152;

am 11/4/2015, Register 216; am 3/2/2020, Register 233; am ___/___/_____, Register _____)

Authority: AS 08.95.030 AS 08.95.040

The board discussed the language and came to the determination that changing “suicide prevention” to “suicide education” would better portray the intended requirements. Discussion was had with Alison Osborne to create a definition for Suicide Education, and to have this added to the regulations. The board agreed on adding the following definition to the regulations: “suicide education” means a structured educational experience such as a course, lecture, workshop, or other organized training that focuses on suicide awareness, prevention, intervention, postvention, and/or crisis management, as it applies to social work practice. These changes will be made in the finalized language.

Resolved to approve the draft language to add three suicide education contact hours for initial licensure to 12 AAC 18.112 Continued Competency regulations as amended:

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Brandon Ercanbrack	x			
Amber Taylor				x
Ann Applebee	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			

A motion duly made by Sharon Woodward, seconded by Amber Taylor, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the draft language to add three suicide education contact hours for first and subsequent biennial renewals, to 12 AAC 18.210 Continuing Education Requirement regulations as amended

A motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Amber Taylor, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the draft language to prorate renewal Continuing Education hours if a licensee has been licensed for less than 12 months to 21 hours, including six contact hours in substance abuse education, six contact hours in cross-cultural education relating to Alaska Natives, three contact hours in professional ethics, three contact hours in teletherapy practice, and three contact hours in suicide education to 12 AAC 18.210 Continuing Education Requirement regulations as amended

13. New Business

A. Legislation Introduced by Sen. Sullivan S4965

Senator Sullivan has introduced bill S. 4965. The purpose of this bill is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove in-person requirements under Medicare for mental health services furnished through telehealth and telecommunications technology. The board was provided with this language and asked to keep this in mind. Nothing needs to be done by the board at this time.

14. Investigative Report

Jenni Summers and Jasmin Bautista joined the meeting

Jasmin Bautista presented the Investigative Report. The report covered September 8, 2022 through November 30, 2022. There are currently 38 open cases in various statuses, and 7 were closed.

15. Administrative Business

A. Examiner Update

The Frequently Asked Questions page on the Board of Social Work Examiners website has been updated. This information had information that was not up to date, and has since been adjusted. All applications have been updated to reflect the regulation update to 12 AAC 18.112 Continued Competency to reflect the new requirement of three teletherapy CEs when applying for initial licensure by Credentials.

A. Schedule Future Meetings

The board was updated as to the reason for the cancellation of the December 13th Disciplinary Matrix meeting, and discussed rescheduling. As March 7th will no longer be necessary for legislative discussion, the board chose to reschedule the Disciplinary Matrix to March 7th, 2023 from 9am-1pm, if Investigative staff is available. OLE Davis will reach out to the Investigations team to verify their availability.

-ASWB New Board Member Training

March 23-25, 2023 – Tampa, FL: Ann Applebee will see if this works for her. Amber Taylor can attend this meeting if Ann cannot, however Amber prefers the June 2023 dates. Will verify via email after board meeting.
June 8-9, 2023 – Online: Either Ann or Amber, depending on final availability.

-ASWB Education Meeting

April 20-22, 2023 – New Orleans, LA: Amber Taylor is available for this, if she attends the online New Board Member Training. All training will be scheduled after schedules are solidified by board members after the board meeting.

C. Correspondence/Discuss creating new Position Statement re: Exams

OLE Davis has received multiple instances of correspondence from applicants who have not taken the ASWB Examination to verify if they meet the requirements to apply. Brandon noted that in statute 08.95.120 Licensing by credentials, the examination requirement is not specified. 08.95.120(a)(1) states that the board shall issue a license to practice clinical social work if the applicant holds a license to practice social work in another jurisdiction that, at the time of original issuance of the license had requirement for licensure equal to or more stringent than those of this state. 08.95.120(a)(5) specifies that the applicant must have submitted proof of continued competency satisfactory to the board. Brandon notes that this is put back on the board to make the final decision. In regulation 12 AAC 18.112, it clarifies that continued competency satisfactory to the

board includes (1) successful passage of the applicable examination in 12 AAC 18.105 within the two years immediately before the application; or (2) verification of completion within the five years immediately preceding the application of (a) 1,500 hours of work as a social worker while holding a license similar to that for which application has been made; and (b) the continuing education requirements described in 12 AAC 18.210(a)(1),(3), and (4). 12 AAC 18.105 defines the examination required for licensure by examination under this chapter is the Association of Social Work Boards Examination, sponsored by the Association of Social Work Boards. Sharon Woodward has appointed herself the task of creating a Position Statement clarifying these requirements for applicants. The drafted Position Statement will then be presented to the board via OnBoard. Any changes will be emailed to OLE Davis to be re-presented to the board during the March 2023 meeting for finalization.

16. Application Review

After the board’s discussion regarding the ASWB Examination requirement, the board discussed the application for license number 202688. This applicant took a different examination in 2015. The board was tasked with verifying if this was equal to or more stringent than the ASWB Examination. OLE Davis found a Frequently Asked Questions page comparing the two examinations from 2015. This was emailed to the board. Board members will review on their own time and vote on the application as they see fit via OnBoard.

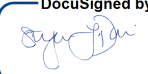
17. Adjourn

A motion duly made by Sharon Woodward, seconded by Ann Applebee, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to adjourn the Alaska State Social Work Examiner Board Meeting at 1:38PM

Adjourned at 1:38PM

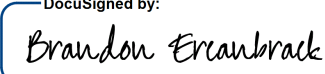
Respectfully Submitted By:

DocuSigned by:

C80A28A0A555413...

Stefanie Davis
Occupational License Examiner
State of Alaska, DCCED, CBPL

3/9/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:

7363C9FD3D614F9...

Brandon Ercanbrack
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

3/9/2023

Date