

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

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.95.020, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held in Juneau, Alaska at 333 Willoughby.

**Thursday, March 14, 2013**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Jason Floyd, Chair, at 9:10 a.m. New Board Member Zachary Paulson was welcomed to the meeting.

Board members present, forming a quorum of the Board, were:

Jason Floyd, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker  
Laura Thiesen, Licensed Master Social Worker  
Marilyn B. Kerr, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Jennifer Syzdek, Public Member  
Zachary Paulson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Present from the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing at various times were:

Don Habeger, Director  
Misty Frawley, Administrative Officer  
Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator, by telephone  
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

**Ethics Reports**

There were no ethics violations to report.

**Agenda Item 1      Review Agenda**

The Board reviewed the agenda discussed changes.

**On a motion duly made by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and passed  
unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED that the Board accept the agenda as amended.**

## **Agenda Item 2      Review Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 7, 2012, meeting.

**On a motion duly made by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and passed unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED that the Board accept the September 7, 2012 meeting minutes.**

## **Agenda Item 3      Board Reports**

### **A. NASWAK Liaison Report**

Marilynn Kerr is the Board's liaison to the National Association of Social Workers Alaska Chapter.

NASWAK annual conference will be in October, probably October 11-13, 2013.

There was discussion about asking ASWB if they were interested in pursuing an associate level social work license.

## **Agenda Item 4      Correspondence**

### **A. Loviskova-work description/CSW**

Ms. Loviskova submitted a job/duties description and enquired if the board would determine if she could pursue LCSW while working as a Life Coach III. The Answer was no, the Life Coach III description did not equate to clinical social work:

**Sec. 08.95.990. Definitions.** In this chapter,

(2) "clinical social work" means the diagnosis of psychiatric disorders and the use of techniques of applied psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature while practicing social work;

### **B. ASWB Exam Security – FYI**

The Association of Social Work Boards sent boards nation-wide an update on their exam security enhancements.

### **C. ASWB – Emails-FYI**

The Association of Social Work Boards sent out an email regarding the Department of Health and Humans services new HIPPA regulations regarding emails.

## **Agenda Item 5      Budget Report**

Misty Frawley, Administrative Officer, reported that the Board had a surplus as of the second quarter of FY13. The surplus is \$98,485.00. There discussion pertaining to cost increases now that the Board cannot accept the third party paid training travel from ASWB as they were allowed to previously; creating more costs for the Board for something that should cost the state nothing.

## **Agenda Item 6      Code of Ethics**

There was discussion regarding continuing to adopt the “Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers”, 1999 edition as the code of ethics for social workers licensed in Alaska. There was about writing a new code; adopting the newer version of the NASW code; or leaving it as it is.

There was dialogue regarding the standards of practice. The Board has adopted through regulations, the “Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct”, parts 1-10 of the Model Social Work Practice Act. Board Member Kerr is going to find out at the ASWB meeting if there is a newer version than the one now in regulations; the 1998-2001 version.

The Board has had an on-going discussion regarding the NASW code of ethics and their regulations. What are in the regulations now is as follows:

**12 AAC 18.150. SOCIAL WORKER CODE OF ETHICS.** A social worker licensed in this state shall adhere to the code of ethics adopted by the Board of Social Work Examiners under this section. The board hereby adopts the *Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.*, 1999 edition, as the code of ethics for social workers licensed in this state.

**12 AAC 18.160. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.** A social worker licensed in this state shall adhere to the standards of practice adopted by the Board of Social Work Examiners under this section. The board hereby adopts the “*Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct*”, Parts 1 – 10 of the Model Social Work Practice Act, Model Law Task Force 1996-1997 with amendments, 1998-2001 published by the Association of Social Work Boards, as the standards of practice for social workers licensed in this state.

This discussion tabled until next meeting.

## **Agenda Item 7      Legislative Meetings** **Agenda Item 9      Review Legislative meetings**

Board members took time to meet with various Legislators regarding the way the state is handling third party reimbursed travel; cutting back on Board travel needed for training, which helps the Board preserve public safety.

The following is the Board’s letter to the Legislators:

2013 Alaska Board Of Social Work Examiners ASWB and Travel Position Statement

Per AS 08.95, The Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board) is responsible for the licensure of social workers; establish professional ethics and practice standards; and maintain public safety by assuring and enforcing professional ethical competency.

Per 12 AAC 18.160, as a dues paying member jurisdiction, the Board maintains a working relationship with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). This is a significant relationship as all licensed social workers in Alaska are required to adhere to the *Standards of Practice/Codes of Conduct* of the ASWB, and, per 12 AAC 18.105, they are required to take the national examinations developed and administered by ASWB before becoming licensed.

The benefits and functions of the Board’s relationship with ASWB are numerous. The Association of Social Work Boards does the following:

- Develops and conducts nationally recognized uniform testing of license candidates;
- Provides specialized legal information and resources relevant to the Board’s public safety role;

- Maintains a directory of qualified continuing education opportunities for maintaining licensing and ensuring competence;
- Provides an international licensing database of regulatory and licensing actions taken against licensees from every U.S. state, except California, and in every member Canadian Province;
- Provides board member training specific to social work licensing and regulatory boards;
- Provides continuing updated education in this era of high mobility, electronic records, privacy, and e-communications;
- Includes our members, as voting delegates, in development of resources and ASWB functions.

During 2012 and 2013 the Administration has inhibited and blocked the Board's participation in ASWB sponsored meetings and trainings. This is despite the Board's annual planning goals and related directives to Board Members to perform their duties through active participation in the governance, training and credentialing roles of ASWB.

The Board's budget has and continues to be solvent and is funded by the licensees of the Social Work profession. Despite these facts, the Administration cited "budget cuts" as the initial reason for, and direct cause of, ASWB and other state board travel denials, restrictions, and reimbursement refusals. When the Board informed the Administration that the travel to ASWB trainings and meetings is provided for by the Board's ASWB Membership and national testing fees, the Administration rebutted by stating the Board could not legally accept travel support or funding from any party other than the State of Alaska.

The Board takes the position that the Administration is impeding the Board's legal responsibility to carry out its mandated statutory and regulatory mission and, in doing so, reduces the Board's ability to most effectively ensure public safety and maintenance of proper regulatory oversight of the Social Work profession in Alaska.

1. Board travel for training at ASWB meetings is provided for by the ASWB through the Board's membership.
2. Restriction of travel—It is the Board's role to determine their travel and training, not the Administration's.
3. Our history shows good stewardship of the funds provided by licensees.
4. When reimbursed for travel expenses incurred and paid for by the Board, the money does not come back as revenue to the Board.
5. The Administration does not allow third party paid travel through their new interpretation of their policy.

The Board of Social Work Examiners  
 PO Box 110806  
 Juneau, AK 99811

**Agenda Item 8      Applications/Audit Review**

The Board reviewed 65 continuing education audits and 18 applications.

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to approve the following Social Work CEU audits with the stipulation that the information in the applicants' files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:**

Barclay, Malinda  
Bazzi, Mona  
Bettano Everts, Paula  
Branson, Lynn  
Byrnes, Holly  
Cage, Lee  
Call, Camielle  
Chase, Wendy  
Chu, Timothy  
Cosolito, Barbara  
Davis, Rebecca  
Farber, Elizabeth  
Frankforter, Katherine  
Glaspell, Kimberly  
Grace, Robin  
Hanson, Sarah  
Hill, Sandie  
Hischer, John  
Iverson, Becky  
Lacey Dunn, Jeannette  
Lauterbach, John  
Leonard, Anna  
Lewis, Alfred  
Loosli, Verna  
Marcionette, Renee  
Meath, Stephanie  
Mesdag-Church, Janice  
Morton, Laura  
Nelson, Melanie  
Parkin, Cynthia  
Richardson, Angela  
Rivard, Beverly  
Scales, Rebecca  
Schoenberger, Lucille  
Swanson, Brittany  
Tallman, Peter  
Tea, E. Katherine  
Triplett, Carrie  
Tyus, Aretha  
Williams, Evangeline  
Wright, Kelly

On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was

**RESOLVED to approve the following Social Work applications with the stipulation that the information in the applicants' files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:**

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

CALLAHAN, ROBYN  
MCKENZIE, LAURA  
MELLISON, DEBORAH  
TRYCK, MARTI  
WEAVER, JOHN

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY CREDENTIALS

PEIETROWSKI, DEIDRE  
WINTERS, LAINA

MASTER SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

ATKINS, GIOVANNA  
ATKINS, ELIZABETH  
CHRISTIANSEN, ANGELA  
FRUTIGER, KATHRYN  
MELLISON, DEBORAH

MASTER SOCIAL WORKER BY CREDENTIALS

BROWN, NIKKI-LEE  
SUN, CHINI

EXTENSION OF EXAM TIME

O'NEIL, SEAN  
RIVERA, ADA

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS APPROVAL

Senior & Disability Services

Basic Care Coordination for the Home & Community Based Waiver

Office of Children's Services – DHSS

Early Childhood Mental Health Institute

## **Agenda Item 10      New Business**

### **A. Yearly Report/Goals/Narrative**

There was a short discussion regarding what would be in the narrative and the goals and objectives for fiscal year 2014. Board members will review last year's and email their ideas to put in the new ones. The Chair will write a narrative for the past year after receiving the Board's information.

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**Agenda Item 11      Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item 12      Old Business**

**A. Associate's License**

There was discussion regarding whether or not to continue adding an associate's level license to the Social Work licensure. This must be done through statute.

Chair Floyd feels that, at this time, there is no regulatory authority over people practicing around social work, who are on the fringe and not under the umbrella of regulations. He feels that this would open new doors to career paths.

Board members expressed concern that this would let individuals who are less experienced; lower paid; possibly not social work trained, as there is talk of including other education areas, into the social work area and possibly taking over the existing BSW jobs. Questions arose as to whether or not it would cause more ethical/investigative problems; if it is really needed; what acceptable training is there; and whether or not the state want or need it?

Board member Kerr will obtain more information while at the national meeting. Some members felt it needed a needs assessment; but who would one go to for information for need assessment. The Board would like the national organization's opinion/research. The discussion was closed until board members can return with feedback from NASW.

**On a motion by Marilyn Kerr, seconded by Laura Thiesen and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to close the discussion on the Associate's level license.**

**Agenda Item 13      Investigator's Report**

Investigator Wall-Rood reflects gave the Investigations Report, which deals with open matters. At this time there is one probations case; four pending complaints and six in-take cases.

Since the last meeting, the following have been closed: One probation case, three in-take cases, and three investigations. There are several open complaints waiting for board member review to determine if they will become investigations.

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zacchary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to go into executive session with staff in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2) and (3) for the purpose of discussing an application.**

Into Executive Session: 10:20 am

Out of Executive Session: 10:43 am

## Agenda Item 13 Board Business

### A. Task List

Marilyn Kerr -- liaison to NASWAK  
Board -- Work on statute for Associate license  
Board -- Explore Code of Ethics change

### B. Sign Wall Certificates

The wall certificates were signed.

### C. Schedule future meetings

March 14-15, 2013 in Juneau

June 7, 2013 in Anchorage

September 27, 2013 in Anchorage

The meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m.

### D. Sign Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were signed by the Board Chair.

### E. Discuss Travel Authorizations/collect & sign

Travel Authorizations were signed by the Board members and submitted.

### F. Training/conferences

ASWB Annual Training -- 1<sup>st</sup> attendee -- Jason Floyd; 2<sup>nd</sup> attendee -- Jennifer Syzdek  
ASWB New Member Training -- Zachary Paulson

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Jennifer Syzdek, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to send Zachary Paulson to ASWB New Member Training.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved:

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Jason Floyd, Chair  
Social Work Examiners Board

Date: \_\_\_\_\_