

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

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
March 13th, 2018

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 Tuesday, March 13th, 2018 at 550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1620 Anchorage, Alaska.

Tuesday, March 13th, 2018

Agenda item #1 Call to order/Ethics Reporting

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Danielle LaFon at 8:47am.

Roll call:

Danielle LaFon, LBSW, Chairperson
Angela Christiansen, LCSW, Vice-Chairperson
Laura Thiesen, LMSW
Rachel Olson, Public Member
Lisa Hay, LCSW

Board staff:

Chelsea S Childress, Licensing Examiner

Ethics report:

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

Agenda Item #2 Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda presented by Licensing Examiner, Chelsea Childress.

A motion duly made by Ms. Angela Christiansen, seconded by Ms. Laura Thiesen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

Agenda item #3 Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the drafted minutes presented in the Board Book. There were no revisions to the minutes presented.

A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Angela Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to accept the September 15th, 2017 minutes as amended.

50 Ms. Childress shall mail the revised final minutes to Chairperson Danielle LaFon to sign and return. Upon receipt of the
51 signed minutes, Ms. Childress will post them to the State of Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners webpage.

52 With additional time before the Investigative Report, the Board moved on to discuss New Business.

54
55 **Agenda item #5** **Division update**

56
57 Administrative Officer, Melissa Dumas joined the meeting at 8:59AM.

58
59 Ms. Dumas provided instructions to the Board on how to use the fee analysis tool emailed by Ms. Childress earlier that
60 month. Ms. Dumas clarified that the division has proposed a reduction in licensing fees at this time in order to comply
61 with AS 08.01.065.

62
63 The Board voiced concerns with the reductions proposed. There were concerns of travel restrictions and why there was
64 a proposed reduction to the fees when, although there is a surplus in fees, the Board is being required to hold
65 teleconference meetings (rather than in-person meetings). The Board further noted the importance for in-person
66 meetings as they facilitate discussion and eliminate outside distractions, further allowing the Board to address additional
67 items required to complete board business.

68
69 The Board also voiced concerns with potential increases in expenses for investigative costs in the future. Ms. LaFon
70 noted that the Board has been more stringent with investigative cases and costs, which may affect legal fees negatively
71 if licensees challenge the Board.

72
73 Ms. Dumas noted she would present the Board's concerns to the appropriate staff to be taken into consideration when
74 making a final determination for the fee analysis.

75
76 Administrative Officer, Melissa Dumas exited the meeting at 9:03AM.

77
78 The Board further discussed the fee analysis, and proposed to oppose the Divisions proposal. The Board also proposed
79 an alternate reduction, to be applied to the Continuing Education Initial Application and Continuing Education Renewal
80 fees. The proposed fees are \$50 for the Continuing Education Initial Application fee and \$25 for the Continuing
81 Education Renewal fee.

82
83 ***A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Angela Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent,***
84 ***was:***

85
86 ***Resolved to oppose the Divisions proposed reduction, and to propose an alternate fee reduction***
87 ***to the Continuing Education Provider Approval Initial Application (\$50) and the Continuing Education Renewal***
88 ***Application (\$25).***

89
90 **Agenda Item #4** **Investigative report**

91 Senior Investigator, Jeanette Akers entered the room at 9:03AM.

92
93 Sr. Inv. Akers reviewed the investigative report for the period of December 15, 2017 through March 07, 2018. The
94 Division opened seven (3) matters and closed three (3) matters. The Board noted no questions regarding the
95 investigative report.

96
97 Sr. Inv. Akers presented a consent agreement, Case No. #2017-000807. The Board determined they would need to enter
98 executive session to discuss.

100 Sr. Inv. Akers noted she would be returning to her desk, and requested Ms. Childress follow-up with her once the Board
101 makes a final determination, or if they have any questions she may assist with.

102
103 Senior Investigator, Jeanette Akers exited the room at 9:10AM.

104
105 The Board entered executive session at 9:11AM
106 The Board exited executive session at 10:01AM

107
108 A motion was presented by Ms. Laura Thiesen, and seconded by Ms. Angela Christiansen, to adopt the consent agreement
109 as presented by Sr. Inv. Akers. *The motion did not pass.*

110
111 The Board had a split vote ballot (50/50), and determined further deliberation in executive session would be required to
112 reach a completed quorum.

113
114 The Board entered executive session at 10:35AM
115 The Board exited executive session at 10:41AM

116
117 *A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Angela Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent,*
118 *was:*

119
120 *Resolved to issue an Imposition of Civil Fine and Order, including a \$350 fine.*

121
122
123 Agenda item #6 New Business

124 Sunset Audit Review:

125
126 The Board reviewed the final sunset audit and the recommendations included.

127
128 One of 25 licenses tested as part of the audit did not contain sufficient evidence that the licensee had met regulatory
129 requirements. The Board of Social Work Examiners (board) appropriately approved licensure pending receipt of key
130 documentation. However, the license was issued without obtaining proper documentation by DCBPL staff, resulting in
131 noncompliance with regulatory requirements. Licensing a person that has not met the requirements for licensure
132 increases the risk to public safety. According to AS 08.01.050(a)(3), (9), and (14), DCBPL is responsible for overseeing the
133 licensing activity for the board.

134
135 The audit identified a lack of procedures to ensure board-required documentation is received prior to licensure. We
136 recommend DCBPL's director improve procedures to ensure board-required documentation is obtained prior to
137 licensure. Additionally, corrective action should be taken to address the noncompliant licensee.

138
139 Ms. LaFon wanted to clarify that this error was made by staff that is no longer with the Division, not by the current
140 Licensing Examiner, Ms. Childress.

141
142 Ms. Childress noted the Board has already began working towards improving the license approval process. Currently, the
143 board no longer uses the vote, "approved pending". "Approved pending" means that the Board approves the application
144 pending receipt of whatever is missing, and the pending items only has to be reviewed by the licensing examiner (i.e. it
145 does not require the Board to review the missing items once submitted).

146
147 By eliminating the "approved pending" vote and using the "tabled" vote, any missing items are required to be re-
148 reviewed by the Board, further eliminating any confusion or incorrect license issuing by Division staff.

149

150 Ms. LaFon requested Ms. Childress research how the Board can take corrective action with the issue at hand. Ms.
151 Childress noted she would speak with Records and Licensing Supervisor, Renee Hoffard and the Division Director, Janey
152 McCollough.

154 The Board finished reviewing the sunset audit. The final audit recommendation was to extend the board's termination
155 to June 30, 2026.

156
157 **Personal Fitness Questions:**

158 Ms. Childress provided copies of the initial application and renewal application signature pages that include the
159 professional fitness questions.

160
161 The Board discussed the questions, noting the current wording on the forms is confusing and may not encourage a
162 licensee to disclose information. The Board agreed to leave question #7 unchanged and to remove the language "drug
163 addiction or alcoholism" from question #8

164
165 *A motion duly made by Ms. Rachel Olson, seconded by Ms. Laura Thiesen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:*

166
167 *Resolved to approve the changes to question #8, removing the language "drug addiction or*
168 *alcoholism".*

169
170 **Review CBPL Legislative Guidance:**

171 Ms. Childress noted the guide was included in the Board Book for the Board's review outside of the meeting and that
172 there was not any discussion that needed to occur, unless the Board had specific questions or comments.

173
174 The Board noted no comments or questions.

175
176 Break for lunch at 11:30AM

177 Back on record at 12:41PM

178
179 **Default Revocations:**

180
181 Ms. Childress presented an email from Paralegal, Marilyn Zimmerman requesting clarification for the items to be
182 included within consent agreements issued for nonresponsive audit cases. The Board further determined that the
183 consent agreements issued for nonresponsive audit cases should include reprimands.

184
185 *A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Rachel Olson, and approved by unanimous consent, was:*

186
187 *Resolved to approve including reprimands within consent agreements when issued for*
188 *nonresponsive audit cases.*

189
190 Ms. Christiansen informed the board that she would be leaving at 3:00 due to a family emergency.

191
192 **ASWB Mobility Worksheet:**

193 Ms. Childress asked the Board to review the mobility worksheet at home and be prepared to discuss during the next
194 board meeting, tentatively scheduled for June 15th, 2018.

195
196 **Agenda Item #9** **Public Comments**

197
198 1:30 PM -- No persons present for public comment.

201 **Agenda item #8** **Application Review**
202 The Board continued board business with Application Review.

203
204 The Board entered executive session at 2:07PM
205 The Board exited executive session at 2:19PM

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

208
209 ***RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska:***
210

211

License Applications
Paula Bemis
Caroline Powers
Kaytlin Crawford
Alexandria Empson
Katrina Morgan
Wilma Harpole
Susan Guillory
Jenifer Dickson

CEU Providers
Ethical Challenges in Culturally Appropriate Delivery of Best Practices
Cultural Traditions to Survive Grief and Loss
Havening Techniques Training Workshop
Living Well: Elders, Aging and Developmental Disabilities

Exam Extensions
Rachel Brown

Audits
Jackie Russell

212
213 **Agenda item #12** **Old Business**

214 **Statutes and Regulations Discussion:**

215
216 Ms. Childress provided the Board with an update to the regulations project submitted to Jun Maiquis, Regulations
217 Specialist. Comments provided noted the Board must include specific dates for any regulations that include specific
218 documents adopted.

219
220 *A motion duly made by Ms. Rachel Olson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Hay, and approved by unanimous consent, was:*

221
222 ***Resolved to amend the drafted regulations for the Standards of Practice to include specific dates***
223 ***for the Model Social Work Practice Act and the Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work***
224 ***Practice.***

225
226
227
228 **Teletherapy FAQs:**

229
230 Ms. Childress asked if the Board was able to complete the Teletherapy FAQ document, presented at the September 15th,
2017 meeting. At the previous meeting, Ms. Childress noted this wasn't a required form, but that it would help the
231 development of her online FAQ page as we move forward with drafting teletherapy regulations. The Board had no
232 completed worksheets for Ms. Childress at this time.

233
234
235 Ms. Christiansen volunteered to brainstorm questions that potential applicants may have when researching teletherapy.
236 Ms. Christiansen agreed to send them to Ms. Childress prior to the next meeting.

237
238 **Board Vacancy:**

239 Ms. Childress informed the board that the vacant clinical social work member position has been filled by Lisa Hay, LCSW.
240 The board welcomed Ms. Hay and introduced themselves accordingly.

241
242 Ms. Thiesen agreed to continue serving in the master social work member position until the seat is filled, even though her
243 second term ended 3/1/2018.

244
245 Ms. Christiansen exited the meeting at 3:02pm.

246
247 **Agenda item #13** **Administrative Business**

248
249 **Correspondence:**

250
251 Ms. Childress presented multiple correspondence questions.

- 252 1. Email correspondence received from Ms. Christina Ireton, LMSW (license #107004):
253 a. Can you tell me if our social work board accepts APA continuing education? I am looking at some CBT
254 courses I'm interested in, and wanted to check first.
255 i. The first is the TFCBT course: <https://tfcbt2.musc.edu/>
256 ii. The other courses I am looking at are offered through Mindful Continuing Education:
257 <https://www.mindfulceus.com/ceu-course-search.php?profession=10>

258
259 **The board determined that the courses offered by the APA are acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12**
260 **AAC 18.220.**

- 261
262 2. Email correspondence received from Ms. Jennifer Peeks, LCSW (license #CSWS989)
263 a. I am a LCSW in Alaska and am working on obtaining my CEUs for license renewal. During the fall of 2017,
264 I took a three credit course through the University of Alaska Fairbanks entitled Community Research in
265 Indigenous Contexts (Rural Development 350). Am I able to count this toward my Alaska Native CEUs or
266 do I need to have it further approved by the board? Attached is a syllabus of the course. Thank you for
267 your help and direction.

268
269 **The board determined that the university courses are acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12 AAC**
270 **18.220.**

- 271
272 3. Email correspondence received from Ms. Sadie Huffer, LCSW (license #117472)
273 a. I was writing today to see if a conference I am attending soon can count as CEU's. I am currently an
274 LCSW and would like to use the credits from the Alaska Psychiatric Association conference towards my
275 CEU's. The conference is going to be in Girdwood on March 23-25, 2018.

276
277 **The board determined that the courses offered by the APA are acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12**
278 **AAC 18.220.**

- 280 4. Email correspondence received from Ms. Kelley Huse, LCSW (license #CSWS811)
281 a. After reading the literature on your website, I still wasn't sure it'd be approved. Last year I didn't get
282 approved for an addictions course so certainly want to be sure this time.

283 i. <http://www.mindfulceus.com/ceu-courses/mindfulness-techniques-to-treat-addiction.php>

284 **The board determined that the course is acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12 AAC 18.220.**

- 285
286 5. Email correspondence received from Ms. Sara Cockerham, LCSW (license #CSWS1308)

- 287 a. Do you know if this can be counted towards social work CEU's?

288 i. HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESPONSE EDUCATION SERIES

289 **S:** Providence Alaska Medical Center is hosting an education opportunity for our caregivers to learn
290 about identification and response strategies for victims of human trafficking Alaska in Alaska.
291 Priceless Alaska, a local organization that connects survivors of sex trafficking to resources across the
292 state, will present **March 28th at 5:00pm to 6:30 pm**. We are seeking volunteers to attend the
293 presentation. Dinner will be provided and 1.25 CEUs are available through the Alaska Nurse's
294 Association.

295 **B:** It is estimated that 88% of trafficking victims access medical care during their trafficking
296 situation. (Beazley Institute for Health Law & Policy, 2014). Providence is currently in the process of
297 developing a protocol and working with community resource partners to ensure timely, appropriate
298 referrals for potential victims. This education opportunity is part of our larger initiative to respond to
299 victims of human trafficking where we serve patients in the seven states across Providence St.
300 Joseph Health.

301 **A:** This education session is being offered to all nurses or PCTS at Providence Alaska Medical
302 Center. If space is an issue priority will be given to our clinical focus areas of ED, maternity services,
303 family medicine and social work.

304 **R:** Please find between 6-8 volunteers to attend this education opportunity and have them sign up
305 through the HealthStream course – PAMC: Sex Trafficking in Alaska: Identification & Response for
306 Clinicians
307

308 **The board determined that the course is acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12 AAC 18.220.**

- 309
310 6. Email correspondence received from Ms. Chelsea Saettone, LCSW (license #120322)

- 311 a. I did a Lunch and Learn through North Star last Wednesday 1/30 called The Science of Opioid Addictions
312 & the Prescription Opioid and Heroin Crisis: A Public Health Approach to an Epidemic. They said that it was
313 a total of 3 AMA PRA Category credits and that they were good across all disciplines. But I just wanted to
314 check to see and if so if this would count for substance abuse credits.

315
316 **The board determined that the course is acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12 AAC 18.220.**

- 317
318 7. Email correspondence received from Ms. Hope O'Brien, LMSW (license #115183)

- 319 a. I am wondering about how substance abuse credits can be approved for social work continuing
320 education. SAMHSA has linked to a training on its website on "Engaging Adolescent Patients about
321 Marijuana Use," which has been approved as continuing education for physicians (AMA PRA category 1),
322 but it doesn't seem like it has been approved by the board or NASW. Link to training:

323 <https://training.simmersion.com/Launch/Free/3f9f4dde-c68c-44d3-a143-041e6604aaf5>

324
325 **The board determined that the course is acceptable for CE credit in accordance with 12 AAC 18.220.**

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330 Wall Certificates:

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Ms. Childress asked Ms. LaFon and Ms. Christiansen about the status of the Wall Certificates that were pending signatures. Ms. Christiansen noted she had mailed off the signed Wall Certificates last week, and that they should be arriving at my desk any day now.

Travel:

There were no upcoming travel items to discuss.

Ms. Childress reminded the board that the travel preferences form would need to be submitted a minimum of 60 days prior to any travel scheduled.

Future Meeting Dates:

Ms. Childress noted the meeting dates for the September board meeting, tentatively scheduled for September 13-14, 2018, may need to be rescheduled due to other meeting conflicts.

Ms. LaFon asked that Ms. Childress try to keep the meeting dates as scheduled as she has already scheduled the time off of work, etc.

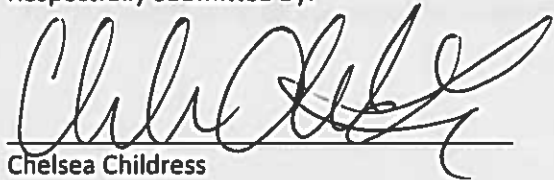
With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Adjourned at 3:59 PM

Respectfully Submitted By:



Chelsea Childress
Occupational Licensing Examiner
State of Alaska, CCED

12/13/2018
Date



Danielle LaFon
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

12/10/2018
Date