

**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
April 18, 2008**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held March 9, 2007, in Anchorage, Alaska, at the Atwood Building, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1860.

Friday, April 18, 2008

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Darrell Allman, Acting Board Chair, at 8:45 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board, were:

Darrell Allman, Clinical Social Worker, Anchorage (acting Chairperson)
Gail La Rose-Henderson, Clinical Social Worker, Wasilla
Jason Floyd, Baccalaureate Social Worker, Valdez

Board Members absent:

Sammye Pokryfki, Master Social Worker, Wasilla
Paulette Schuerch, Public Member, Anchorage

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

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner
Susan Winton, Investigator
Christine Wyatt, Administrative Manager (by telephone)

Present from the Public:

Jacqueline Hardy, Anchorage, Alaska

Agenda Item 1 Review Agenda

The agenda was approved with the following items:

- Add Hardy and Weibel letters to Old business (B)
- Add Temporary license for LCSW to New Business
- Add Board Member renewal to Board Business

Agenda Item 2 Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from November 2, 2007.

On a motion duly made by Jason Floyd, seconded by Gail La Rose-Henderson, and passed unanimously it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept as amended the November 2, 2007, meeting minutes.

The Board reviewed the minutes from December 2, 2007 teleconference meeting.

On a motion duly made by Jason Floyd, seconded by Gail La Rose-Henderson, and passed unanimously it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept as December 2, 2007, meeting minutes.

Agenda Item 3 Correspondence

A. National Association of Scholars

The Board had received a letter from the National Association of Scholars. The Board they felt that further investigation was needed. Darrell Allman noted that the NASW newsletter had letters to the editor regarding this organization. After discussion, the Board consensus was that it is a political matter; the Board should dismiss it and move on. No letter will be written in response.

B. Jean Balestery - CEU question

Jean Blestrery had written to the Board to enquire if her doctoral research paper on Alaska Native culture and population and her graduate course in "Language, Culture, and Society in Native North America" would be accepted for CEUs relating to Alaska Natives for the upcoming renewal. Following discussion, the Board made the following motion:

On a motion duly made by Gail La Rose-Henderson, seconded by Jason Floyd, and passed unanimously it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept Jean Balestery's request for her doctorate work/research paper be accepted for Alaska Native Specific CEUs.

C. ASWB pass/fail report

This was FYI information for the Board regarding the pass/fail report from Association of Social Work Boards.

Agenda Item 4 Old Business

A. OCS Sandoval letter

Board Member Jason Floyd drafted a letter as a response to a letter from the Director of the Office of Children's Services regarding the change to OCS child protective service's job classes and job class specifications.

The Board is concerned that the public is placed at an elevated risk of harm by OCS' policies regarding job classes and job class specifications. Members of the public are receiving services from people without the proper education. The OCS is retreating from their previously stated goal of more social workers and elevating the current social workers to supervisory positions.

After discussion, the Board approved the following letter to be sent to Director Sandoval:

The Board of Social Work Examiners would like to thank you for attending the Board meeting in June 15, 2007, and for your letter, dated July 3, 2007. We would like to thank you for informing the Board of the administrative changes in regard to supervision; the rationale behind it; for maintaining this continuing dialogue; and respectfully presenting the administrative changes within the Office of Children's Service's system.

This is an official response concerning the Office of Children's Services (OCS) letter relating to its current policy and related creation of job classes in which the OCS supervisors, and workers alike, are no longer required to attain state licensure as social workers or required to seek and obtain licensure within a time period directly following hire.

It is this Board's role and function to assure the highest possible level of professional integrity for the practice of social work and the safety of those who receive related support and services in Alaska.

Under AS 08.95.100., summarizing sub-sections one through four, a license is required of any person who practices social work, and that if a non-licensed person presents or, "holds out as being" a licensed social worker, "in any way, orally or in writing, directly or by implication," they shall be found guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

In this interest of public safety, the Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners does not support or endorse OCS' decision to place professionally trained and licensed social workers under the direct supervision of those who do not meet the basic requirements for social work licensure.

The Board consensus is that the Office of Children's Services' decision to continue this hiring practice, potentially and/or ultimately, requires licensed social workers to come under direct supervision of those who lack the professional credentials to legally perform assessments and decisions as social workers. In addition, the Board is concerned that licensed social workers may be instructed or pressured by these non-social work supervisors to perform duties or make decisions falling outside the guidelines and practices dictated by the profession. This situation unnecessarily places the public at an elevated *risk of harm*.

The Board would request your administration to carefully reconsider the hiring practices addressed in this letter and take immediate steps to ensure that those providing supervision and direction to licensed social workers are themselves at least a licensed social worker at the baccalaureate level.

B. Office Of Children's Services (OCS) hours used toward clinical requirements

Hardy letter

This is a letter seeking clarification of the definition of "clinical social work".

Weibel letter

This letter is requesting the Board make a determination with regard to the percentage of hours working as a social worker with OCS is considered clinical.

The Board received letters from individuals regarding clinical hours received and/or not received at the Office of Children's Services (OCS). There is concern that after putting in time at the OCS, their clinical time signed off by an OCS supervisors will not count.

Jacqueline Hardy, a member of the public, appeared before the Board. During her next three years at OCS, she would like to work toward clinical social work licensure, but had heard that there are questions as to whether or not OCS hours count toward clinical licensure. Before beginning her supervision, she would like to insure that her hours will count and is seeking Board clarification and assurances.

It was noted that the Board had previously pointed out to the Office of Children's Services that, under their own job description, they are not doing clinical social work as defined by statute and regulations, which reads:

Sec. 08.95.990. Definitions. In this chapter.

(6) "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;

The question becomes, "Does the Board see that the work they do meets the regulations, because the job description does not say they do the work."

Chairperson Pokryfki's statement regarding OCS was read and discussion ensued.

The Board instructed the Licensing Examiner to respond to current and future correspondence from other OCS applicants with a modified statement reflecting the Board Chair Pokryfki's statement that she had sent to the Board.

The statement will read as follows:

Regarding the questions about Office of Children's Services and clinical hours toward licensing, this matter has been addressed in the past. The statutes and regulations dictate the requirements for this licensure. In the past, the Board has gone so far as to review the job descriptions for OCS employees in an effort to determine whether the duties performed includes the required elements of clinical social work as outlined in the Board of Social Work Examiners' statutes and regulations. The Board found that the job description does not include "the diagnosis of psychiatric disorders and the use of techniques of applied psychotherapy of a nonmedical nature while practicing social work".

By signing the Post Graduate Clinical Social Work Supervision Form from the Clinical Social Work application, an LCSW supervisor would need to be able to attest that they have been responsible for the direct clinical supervision of the applicant within the content areas, including these clinical skills.

The Board of Social Work Examiners does not have the ability to waive these requirements and it is incumbent upon the applicant and the LCSW supervisor to attest that the requirements are met.

There was discussion on how this would be interpreted. Darrell Allman stated that there has been a concern in regard to the Alaska statute and what clinical social work is and the possibility that the definition is too broad.

On a motion duly made by Gail La Rose-Henderson, seconded by Jason Floyd, and passed unanimously it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept the statement as written and request the Licensing Examiner send out this modified statement as a response when receiving questions regarding clinical supervision in OCS.

Agenda Item 5 New Business

A. Annual Report for June 2008

The Board went over the last year's annual report and discussed the goals that they would like to keep and those they wish to discard.

B. Temporary licensure for Licensed Clinical Social Workers

There was discussion regarding contractors working for the Federal Government and requesting temporary clinical social work licenses. This was later added to the list of statute changes the Board would like to see on the omnibus bill.

Agenda Item 6 Regulations/Statutes

A. Background Checks: Statute request update

The Board had submitted a request to the Division for the introduction of a statute to give the Board of Social Work Examiners the authority for fingerprinting for background checks. The Division had responded that fingerprinting is a cumbersome, expensive process which the Division is not in agreement with. It is suggested that the Board find a friendly legislator to pursue this.

Agenda Item 6 Regulations/Statutes

B. Application made under oath/penalty: Was public noticed

C. Supervised Experience: Was public noticed

The Board discussed the two regulation revisions which had been public noticed, noting that it is not expected to require an increase in appropriations. One regulation adds **12 AAC 18.165 Application made under oath; Penalty** and the other amended regulation deals with requiring an applicant to submit a written request to the Board to allow supervision by telephonic means in lieu of face-to-face supervision before the supervision begins. It is the Board's decision to adopt the regulation amendments that were public noticed.

Upon a motion by Gail La Rose Henderson and seconded by Jason Floyd, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adopt the amendment to add regulation 12 AAC 18.165 and to adopt the amendment to 12 AAC 18.115 regarding supervised experience as was public noticed.

Agenda Item 7 Budget Report

Administrative Manager Christine Wyatt spoke with the Board by telephone. The Board was told that, as of the April 4, 2008 report, they are in decent shape. She was concerned with revenue being brought in for 2008 (\$17,000 compared to \$115,000 brought in at the beginning part of a renewal period); but because the Social Worker Board has not started renewals yet, but is about to begin in June, that is fine. The fee analysis was done in March and, even though the Board has a carry-forward balance of about \$70,000, the renewal fees will not be decreased. The fees were kept that high instead of dropping the fees because it is enough to carry the Board through an additional year if, for some reason, the expenses do not continue to go down. If the costs continue to go down as they are going down now, the fees may be reduced for the next renewal period.

There was discussion regarding how it was good to have an operating capital and how it would be nice to see the fees go down, but the main concern is that we remain stable.

Agenda Item 8 Investigator's Report

Investigator Susan Winton joined the meeting. Her report showed that this Board currently has one open investigation and no licensees on probation. Since the last meeting, the Investigator had opened two complaints; one inquiry was completed and will require Board review and one, which was opened only this week, requires further inquiry.

The Investigator presented a report to the Board regarding a "yes" answer on a professional fitness question on a pending application.

Investigator Winton also reported she is working on a complaint regarding unlicensed practice. She noted that there are a lot of agencies out there where the work they are doing is on the fringe of social work and they are not aware that certain work falls under the statutes and regulations rules and licenses. It is a matter of educational need; it is new to these agencies that they must be careful about the work their people are performing and their title. The Board may wish to consider some sort of outreach.

The Department is creating an Omnibus Bill, which is an umbrella bill for centralized statutes in which uniformed statutes would encompass all Boards including authority for background checks, fingerprinting, and emergency licenses.

Agenda Item 9 Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time. A member of the public did comment during 4.B.

Agenda Item 10 Application Review

The Board reviewed the completed pending applications.

On a motion by Gail La Rose-Henderson and seconded by Jason Floyd, and approved unanimously it was

RESOLVED to go into executive session to discuss an application

Into executive session at 3:02 pm
Out of executive session at 3:18 pm

On a motion by Gail La Rose-Henderson and seconded by Jason Floyd, and approved unanimously it was

RESOLVED to go into executive session to discuss an application with Investigator Winton

Into executive session at 3:30 pm
Out of executive session at 3:42 pm

Based on the discussion held in executive session, the Board directed Investigator Winton to conduct an inquiry into the complaint alleging a violation of the Board of Social Work Examiners' statutes and regulations.

On a motion by Gail La Rose-Henderson and seconded by Jason Floyd, and approved unanimously it was

RESOLVED to approve the following Social Work applications:

Baccalaureate Social Worker by Examination:

Cockerille, Holly
Evanson, Julie
LeClerk, Korina

Master Social Worker by Examination:

Gearhart, Rachel
McRoberts, Thomas
White, Tracy

Clinical Social Worker by Examination:

Lawrence, Kimberly
LeBorgne, Stephanie
Monreal, Amalia
Ruder, Elsbeth
Weibel, Heather

Clinical Social Worker by Credentials:

Davenport, Molly
Nelson, Kimberly

Extension

Neuman, James
Neuman, Mary

Temporary MSW Licence

Howing-DeRoy, Linda

On a motion by Gail La Rose-Henderson and seconded by Jason Floyd, and approved unanimously it was

RESOLVED to approve the following Continuing Education Providers' applications:

NAME	APPLYING FOR
AKPA (Linda Webber)	Treating Headaches with Integrated EMDR
Alaska Center for Resource Families	2008 Kenai Peninsula Out of Home Care Conference
Alaska Court System	Adult Guardianship Mediation Training
Alaska Court System	Advanced Child Custody Mediation Training
Alaska Immigration Justice Project	Working with Interpreters-Mental Health & Social Services
Alaskan Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy	Clinical Supervision & Self Care for Advanced Providers
Anchorage SART Program & Municipality of Anchorage	Sexual Assault Response Team & Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Training
Beyond Borders	The Healing Leader: Marriage & Families
DARE of Alaska	Bullying & Gangs & Role Modeling
DARE of Alaska	Dare Officer Training Cot 11-12-07
DARE of Alaska	Alaska Student Safety Summit
Lorman Business Center, Inc	Making EHR Work: Tackling the Legal Aspects of Using & Maintaining Electronic Health Records
Providence Alaska Medical Center	Ethics Committee Training
Co-Occurring Disorders Institute	ADHD & Bipolar Disorder in Children
Co-Occurring Disorders Institute	FASD
Co-Occurring Disorders Institute	FASD: Practice, Pragmatics & Clinical Wisdom
Co-Occurring Disorders Institute	Risk Assessment & Mental Status
Co-Occurring Disorders Institute	Trauma Informed Services

YUKON KUSKOKWIM HEALTH CORPORATION

Behavioral Health Ethics Training
Cultural Competency
Behavioral Health Ethics Training
Play Therapy
Healthy Attachments / Attachment Disorder
Prevention & Best Practice for Supporting Young Children w/FASD
Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
Traditional Parenting
Treatment of Substance Abuse Disorders

RURAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

ABCs of Secondhand Smoke	1.5 hrs
Adolescents with FASD: Navigating the Rapids to Adult Life	1.5 hrs

ANJC Youth Programs, “Instilling Hope”	1.5 hrs
Clues & Conversations: Understanding Alzheimer’s Disease	1.5 hrs
DSM-IV	1.5 hrs
Ethics in Rural Alaska	1.5 hrs
Family Wellness Warriors Initiative	1.5 hrs
Grief & Healing 1&2	3.0 hrs
Healing Village Trauma	3.0 hrs
HIV Risk & What to do About it	1.5 hrs
Is it Relapse or is it Just Continuing to Use?	1.5 hrs
Overcoming Addictions Through Faith	1.5 hrs
Peer Support Enhances Recovery Potential	1.5 hrs
Provider Healing Circles	1.5 hrs
Rediscovering Ritual I & II	3.0 hrs
Sharing the Wisdom: Healthy Native Communities	3.0 hrs
Suicide Prevention in Alaska I & II	3.0 hrs
The Heroic Journey: Reframing Trauma into Triumph	1.5 hrs
The Moose in the Classroom: A Three Part Substance Abuse Prevention Curriculum for Pre/Early Adolescents	3.0 hrs
Understanding & Caring for Ourselves	1.5 hrs
Using Traditional Spirituality in the Treatment of Anger management with Groups	1.5 hrs
Village Based mental Health	1.5 hrs

Agenda Item 11 Board Business

A. Task List

Eleanor will complete the letter to OCS and mail it out for Board approval for sending it.

B. Sign Wall Certificates

The wall certificates were signed.

C. Schedule future meetings

The next meeting will be held August 29, 2008 in Fairbanks, Alaska. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Board discussed the need to return mail ballots back to the Department in a timely manner. The Board requested that the licensing examiner have the meeting date and place put on the website. This will be brought to the next meeting and Eleanor will track the time for it takes for returned ballots.

D. Sign Meeting Minutes

The minutes were signed by Acting Chair Darrell Allman.

E. Discuss Travel Authorizations/collect & sign

Travel Authorizations were signed by the Board members.

F. Ethics reports, if needed

No ethics reports at this time.

G. ASWB New Member Training

There are no new board members to send and staff will be attending in June.

H. ASWB Annual Meeting

The annual meeting is November 6-8, 2008, in Providence, RI. It will have to be determined at the August meeting who will attend.

I. Board Member Renewal

Darrell Allman informed the Board that he had applied for re-appointment to the Board, but it will be November or December before any decisions are made.

**On a motion by Jason Floyd and seconded by Gail La Rose-Henderson, and approved
unanimously it was**

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved:

Darrell Allman, Acting Chair
Social Work Examiners Board

Date: _____