

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

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
May 3, 2021

Written meeting minutes only reflects a brief overview of the business conducted during the boards meeting. For a more detailed account, please request a copy of the meeting recording.

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 May 3, 2021 via Zoom.

May 3, 2021

Agenda item #1 Call to order/Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by **Lacey Derr** and Chairperson **Mindy Swisher** at **5:06pm**

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Mindy Swisher, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Board Chairperson
Geoffry McCormick, Licensed Master Social Worker
Brandon Ercanbrack, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Sharon Woodward, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker

Division Staff present were:

Lacey Derr, Records and Licensing Supervisor

Agenda Item #1 Review Agenda

A motion duly made by Brandon Ercanbrack, seconded by Sharon Woodward, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as presented

Agenda item #2 Review Audits

Geoffry McCormick joined the meeting at 5:32pm

License #CSWS738: Audit failed

License #CSWS630: Audit failed

In order to save time to discuss HB-193, it was decided that Records and Licensing Supervisor Lacey Derr would review the remaining audits, add additional notes for clarity, and put them onto OnBoard for the board to review.

Agenda item #3 Review Applications

New board member Sharon Woodward was interested in having a general discussion regarding the applications on OnBoard. The board made clarifications on CEUs, and on a distance supervision request. No final decisions on any applications were made during this board meeting. All approvals were completed via OnBoard.

Agenda item #4 Administrative Business

HB-193 Discussion

HB-193 states that there is a need for an Associate Social Worker license. No statute and regulation suggestions for the board were provided in the bill. The board does not hold an official stance on HB-193 at this point. They would like additional information and further clarification prior to taking a specific stance. The board's concerns are as follows:

- The board is interested in knowing what the expectations would be for the Continuing Education requirements for future audits.
- The board states that having an examination for a licensed Social Worker sets a bar of minimal competency. The fact that there is not a current examination for an Associate Social Worker causes concern. It is unclear if any experience would be necessary for an Associate Social Worker license, or if licensure would be given only with education.
- HB-193 states the board would be required to make the exam questions.
- It is the board's understanding that applicants may apply for an Associate's license but not have a degree in Social Work. An applicant would receive the title of Social Worker without specific Social Work education being had. Licensing applicants that do not have a degree in Social Work could cause an increase in investigations. This could increase the costs of the board, which could result in raising application fees in the future.

TASK LIST: Lacey will reach out to Director Chambers to let her know about the discussion had at this meeting, the concerns of the board, and inquire about the next steps to take. Lacey will then reach out to the Board Chair to set up another meeting to discuss this matter further.

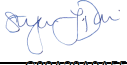
Agenda item #5 Meeting Adjourned

A motion duly made by Geoffrey McCormick, seconded by Brandon Ercanbrack, and approved by unanimous consent was:

Resolved to adjourn meeting at 6:34pm.

Adjourned at 6:34 PM

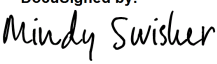
Respectfully Submitted By:

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

1/13/2022

Date

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Mindy Swisher
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

1/11/2022

Date