

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 MARCH 6-7, 2023

MARCH 6, 2023 DAY ONE OF TWO

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

Attending: Brandon Ercanbrack, LCSW/Board Chairperson; Amber Taylor, LMSW; Ann Applebee, LCSW; Sharon Woodward, LBSW; Stefanie Davis, Occupational License Examiner; Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator

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 this agenda.

3. Ethics Disclosures

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

4. Review Minutes – December 12, 2022

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

Resolved to approve the last minutes of December 12, 2022 as drafted.

With additional time before the Financial Report, the board elected to move on to Old Business.

5. Financial Report

Melissa Dumas joined the meeting

A. 2nd Quarter Report FY2023

Melissa Dumas presented the board's financial report for the second quarter of FY2023. The revenue for the board through December of 2022 was \$75,188.00. The direct expenditures for the board were \$88,351.00. The board's total expenditures were \$130,491.00. Currently the surplus for the board is \$99,286.00 with a carry-over of \$154,589.00 in surplus from the prior year.

B. Fee Analysis

The Division is anticipating General Funds for this board at some point this fiscal year to avoid a fee increase. If General Funds are received, a fee increase will likely be avoided. This board may need an increase within 1-2 renewal cycles, but not at this time. No action is required from the board currently.

With additional time before the Division Update, the board elected to move on to New Business.

6. Division Update/Introduction to Board

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers joined the meeting

Deputy Director Saviers joined the meeting in place of Director Sylvan Robb as she was needed in legislative meetings. Deputy Director Saviers provided additional information on Universal Temporary Licensure. This would allow the Division to issue temporary licenses as part of the permanent licensure process for qualified applicants without disciplinary actions on licenses in other states. Applicants would be allowed to work faster at that rate. OLE Davis noted that the board does not currently review temporary licenses, and this may be the case for the Universal Temporary License as well. The Division is hoping for a paralegal/research assistant to ensure temporary licenses are only provided to those with equivalent licenses.

Brandon is interested in assigning delegatory authority to OLE Davis to issue licenses without problems without board approval. Deputy Director Saviers will talk with Sara Chambers to find the board's authority in this area and will have Sara discuss with the board.

With additional time before Public Comment, the board elected to move on to Application Review.

7. Public Comment

Public comment opened at 10:30am. One member of the public spoke:

Malan Paquette joined the meeting. Her primary focus is accessibility to public meetings and forensic issues. She notes the need for recovery services in Alaska. She states she has reviewed the Social Work regulations regarding providing supervision hours. She sees the industry in Alaska leaning towards out of state telehealth. She encourages that the board look into telesupervision because of the vastness of Alaska so that those in rural areas are not required to abandon their roots to go to urban areas to receive supervision.

8. BREAK

The board went off record at 10:44am

Back on the record at 11:00am

9. Regulation Review/Update

Alison Osborne joined the meeting

A. 12 AAC 18.112; 12 AAC 18.210; 12 AAC 18.990

The board reviewed the proposed changes to 12 AAC 18.112 for Continued Competency, 12 AAC 18.210 Continuing Education Requirement, and 12 AAC 18.990 Definitions as publicly noticed.

After reading the questions from the public, the board ensured that the definition of teletherapy was clearly defined in the regulations. This is provided in **12 AAC 18.210(c)(5)**: "teletherapy practice" means the use of audio, video, or data communications to perform functions or practices within the training required for licensure under AS 08.95 and this chapter and while physically separated from a client. The board still agrees with the 3-hour requirement. This requirement was not publicly noticed as it is an existing regulation.

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

Resolved that in considering public comments received and costs to private persons, move to adopt the proposed regulations for 12 AAC 18.112 adding suicide education as a continuing education requirement for initial licensure as proposed and publicly noticed

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

Resolved that in considering public comments received and costs to private persons, move to adopt the proposed regulations for 12 AAC 18.210 adding suicide education as a continuing education requirement for biennial renewal of licensure as proposed and publicly noticed

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

Resolved that in considering public comments received and costs to private persons, move to adopt the proposed regulations for 12 AAC 18.210 prorating licensure renewal continuing education hours for those licensed for less than 12 months as proposed and publicly noticed

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

Resolved that in considering public comments received, move to adopt the proposed regulations for 12 AAC 18.990 adding the definition of suicide education as proposed and publicly noticed

10. Old Business

A. Position Statement Approval – Exams

The board reviewed the drafted Position Statement clarifying examination requirements for applicants. This has been pre-approved by the board on OnBoard. The board did not have additional changes. This will now be presented to Division leadership for review to ensure it is in line with all statutes and regulations. Once confirmed, this will be posted online for public view.

11. LUNCH

The board took a recess for lunch at 11:38am

The board returns from recess and is back on record at 1:24pm

12. New Business

A. Priorities for Board Members

Brandon Ercanback will be stepping down as board chair and departing from the board shortly. An effective date is not yet confirmed, but will be forwarded to the board once it is decided. Brandon noted on the record that previous projects that should be continued by the current board are as follows: Right Touch Regulation

project (regulating, but not overregulating – review statutes and regulations in full for changes/updates); Disciplinary Matrix creation; staying connected with ASWB – they are a great resource.

B. Schedule CSG Compact presentation

Brandon previously assigned himself as the compact point-person. This was reassigned to Ann. Ann will follow the compact and ensure any updates are provided to the board. OLE Davis will forward any compact information received to Ann. Ann will update Sara Chambers as necessary and be a resource for the board. She will also contact Dan Logsdon to inquire about a CSG (Council of State Governments) social work compact presentation for the May 8th meeting. Ann will inform OLE Davis of availability for scheduling.

C. Annual Report reminder

The board will assign sections of the Annual Report during the May 8th meeting. Brandon has sent OLE Davis his drafted sections from the previous Annual Report. These will be handed out to board members as an example once sections are assigned. The report will be reviewed in OnBoard, and finalized during the June 5th meeting.

D. TBD

- Due to the departure of one board member and one scheduled absence, the board will no longer have quorum for the May 22, 2023 meeting. The board rescheduled their future meetings to the following:

May 8, 2023 – Zoom

June 5, 2023 – Zoom *one hour meeting 12-1pm – approve Annual Report*

September 11, 2023 – Zoom

- ASWB has sent out an email asking for boards to choose a delegate for ASWB's Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly. The meeting will be November 3-4, 2023 in Memphis, TN. Amber Taylor will be the delegate, Ann will be the alternate. OLE Davis will provide this information to ASWB.

13. ASWB Exam Data Publication

Stacey Hardy-Chandler, Dale Atkinson, Carla Moore, and Lavina Harless joined the meeting.

ASWB's CEO Stacey Hardy-Chandler provided a presentation to the board regarding their Exam Publication Data with assistance from ASWB's legal counsel Dale Atkinson. In 2022, ASWB published the 2022 ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis. This has involved pushback from various agencies, and inaccurate information regarding pass rate data including but not limited to exam bias, and the exam creation process. They shared an overview of accurate information about the exam development process including anti-bias measures, and ASWB's solution-focused approach to collaborating across the profession on addressing disparate outcomes.

The board found their presentation extremely thorough, and noted that the data provided was very well explained. ASWB noted that the majority of this information is also provided on their website for the general public if any concerns do arise. At this time, no members of the public or licensees have written to the board regarding concerns.

The board went off record at 2:12pm

Back on the record at 2:29pm

14. Elect New Board Chair

Sara Chambers joined the meeting.

Sara Chambers spoke with the board to explain board chair duties. She stated she will be working on a specific board chair training in the future. She spoke with the board regarding assigning delegatory authority to staff. A review by Department of Law will need to occur to see if this is acceptable. OLE Davis will send this to Deputy Director Saviers to be forwarded to Law for review.

Two board members showed interest in becoming the new board chair. Per Sara, after the two board members present their pitch, board members will vote via email after the meeting by sending their votes to OLE Davis. OLE Davis will compile the results and announce the new board chair on day two of the meeting.

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

Resolved to table the board chair vote and send OLE Davis the nomination by the end of the day to be finished tomorrow

15. Application Review

The board had two tabled applications to discuss.

CEU Approval #18822 Southcentral Foundation Nuka Core Concepts: all Southcentral employees are required to take this training, not social workers specifically. Does not appear to be open to the public. The board would like to request additional information from SCF: who is this open to? Is this considered job orientation? Review each agenda item to ensure they all meet **12 AAC 18.220(a)**: To be accepted by the board, continuing education must contribute directly to the professional competency of a social worker and must be directly related to the skills and knowledge required to implement social work principles and methods as defined in AS 08.95.990. Each agenda item should also be reviewed to ensure each agenda item is correctly allocated to specific subject matters listed in regulation. Hours should be recalculated per regulation: **12 AAC 18.210(c)(1)**: one "contact hour" equals a minimum of 50 minutes of classroom instruction between instructor and participant. This application is tabled until additional information is received.

CEU Approval Applicant Alaska Association for Play Therapy inquired to see if they would be considered a "professional organization". Per regulation **12 AAC 18.220(b)(5)**: seminars, workshops, or mini-courses offered by professional organizations are an approved Continuing Education activity and are not required to be preapproved by the board. No definition for professional organization is provided in the regulations. The board may define this during the Right Touch Regulation project. After reviewing a general definition and the Association for Play Therapy website, the board has concurred that they meet this definition: *A professional organization exists to advance a particular profession, support the interests of people working in that profession and serve the public good. A professional organization typically requires member dues, has an elected leadership body and includes a range of subcommittees or functional areas. Professional organizations can be both national or international, and often have close ties to colleges and universities with degree programs in that field.* They are not required to send in preapproval for CEU courses.

16. Recess

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

Resolved to recess until tomorrow morning at 9:00am

The board went off record at 2:50pm

MARCH 7, 2023 DAY TWO OF TWO

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

Attending: Brandon Ercanbrack, LCSW/Board Chairperson; Amber Taylor, LMSW; Ann Applebee, LCSW; Sharon Woodward, LBSW; Stefanie Davis, Occupational License Examiner; Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator

Absent: n/a

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairperson **Brandon Ercanbrack** called the meeting to order at **9:00am**

2. Elect New Board Chair (cont.)

Based on the mail in ballots received yesterday afternoon, our new board chair is Ann Applebee. This goes into effect the day after Brandon Ercanbrack resigns. We do not have this date yet, but it will be provided to the board once this is decided.

3. Investigative Report

Jasmin Bautista and Jenni Summers joined the meeting.

Jasmin Bautista presented the Investigative Report. The report covered December 1, 2022 through February 16, 2023. There are currently 41 open cases in various statuses, and 1 was closed. The majority of the open cases are related to Continuing Education and are with the paralegal. Ann asked if anything could be done to move the cases through faster. Jasmin stated that she has full board cooperation at this time.

4. Disciplinary Matrix Creation

A. Executive Session

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

Resolved that the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners enter into executive session in accordance with Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing the creation of the disciplinary matrix and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be confidential. Board staff to remain present: Stefanie Davis, Jeanne Pace, Jenni Summers, and Jasmin Bautista.

The board went off record into Executive Session at 9:04am

Back on the record at 11:58am


5. Adjourn

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

Resolved to adjourn the March CSW meeting at 11:59am

Off the record at 12:03PM

Respectfully Submitted By:

DocuSigned by:


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

5/9/2023

Date

DocuSigned by:


Ann Applebee
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

5/8/2023

Date