

1 State of Alaska
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
6 Minutes of the Meeting
7

8 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,
9 Article 6, scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners originated virtually via zoom.
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12

13 **Monday, January 22, 2024**
14

15 **Board Member Present Constituting a Quorum**

16 Ann Applebee, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
17 Anne Wells, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
18 Amber Taylor, Licensed Master Social Worker
19 Sharon Woodward, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
20 Stacey Stone, Public Member
21

22 **Staff Members Present**

23 Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator II
24 Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist II
25 Rebecca Clay, Occupational Licensing Examiner
26

27 **Agenda Item – Call to Order/Roll Call**

28 Ann Apple, board chair, called the meeting to order and conducted roll call with everyone present.
29

30 On the Record: 1:00 PM
31

32 **Agenda Item- Ethics Disclosures**

33 No ethics disclosures were reported.
34

35 **Agenda Item- Administrative Business**
36

37 **Tabled Applications**
38

39 ***In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Anne Wells with unanimous consent, it was
40 resolved to go into executive session for a discussion about applicants #216285, #207568, #216511.***
41

42 **The motion carried unanimously.**
43

44 Off the record: 1:03 PM

45 On the record 1:21 PM
46

47 ***In a motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Stacey Stone with unanimous consent, it was
48 resolved to approve application #216285.***

49 **The motion carried unanimously.**

50

51 ***In a motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Amber Taylor with unanimous consent, it was***
52 ***resolved to approve application #207568.***

53

54 **The motion carried unanimously.**

55

56 ***In a motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Amber Taylor with unanimous consent, it was***
57 ***resolved to approve application #216511.***

58

59 **The motion carried unanimously.**

60

61 Opening and Closing Dates for Ballots

62 Rebecca Clay OLE explained that all mental health program's schedule for ballot opening and closing
63 dates would be the same. Jeanne Pace explained the decision was due shortage in division staff and the
64 licensing examiners were working multiple programs and consistency would create efficiency. All
65 members agreed on the new dates.

66

67 Continuing Education Log

68 Rebecca Clay asked the board for guidance regarding CEU log certificates. Current process was to ask the
69 applicants to put the CEU certificates beneath the log in order listed on the log. This has created a delay
70 in licensure as some applicants have difficulty. All members agreed that applicants did not have to put
71 them in order. The Licensing examiner would continue to verify all CEU certificates were accounted for
72 on the log.

73

74 **Agenda Item - Regulations Discussion**

75 Amber Taylor raised concerns about implementing requirements for LCSWs. Ann Applebee reviewed the
76 history and stated the State of Alaska has no requirements and it was important to have qualified
77 supervisors and have supervision training. A. Taylor stated the new supervision requirements would
78 create more barriers to licensure due to the shortage of supervisors. She further stated the Social Work
79 Practice Act doesn't really apply because of Alaska's small population. She recalled how difficult it was
80 for her in Fairbanks to receive supervision and the reason she missed the December 11-12 meeting was
81 due to a shortage of LCSWs in her organization. She researched several states similar in population size
82 and outlined their supervision requirements. A. Applebee stated that they were not trying to create
83 barriers, but there should be requirements set in place for supervisors. Stacey Stone added that
84 alternate forms of supervision lacked in standardization. Clear communication about what the board
85 requires would increase access. A. Taylor stated she was still concerned about how supervision would
86 affect super rural communities. A. Applebee stated the board has a responsibility for public safety and
87 wants to ensure LCSWs in the state are well trained and have the experience to provide supervision. S.
88 Stone agreed that supervision requirements were created within the framework of statutes and
89 regulations. A. Taylor stated that model for social work was a suggestion, not rule and adding more
90 requirements to supervisors did not help the community because access to supervision is already
91 limited. Anne Wells commented saying part of the considerations for supervision was due to the
92 exponential growth of supervisors in the state and a desire for parity with other mental health boards in
93 the state. LCSWs would still have options like virtual and other exceptions. Jeanne Pace mentioned that
94 although other boards had supervision requirements, they had a supervisor license type which the social
95 work board does not currently have. The addition of that license type would require a statutory change.

96 Stefanie Davis commented that the board is drafting language to submit to law from them to determine
97 if the board has legal authority to implement supervision requirements without a supervisor license
98 type. She suggested if the board has authority to move forward with requirements, to have public
99 comment.

100

101 Anne Wells left the meeting at 1:50 PM.

102

103 Stefanie Davis reviewed edits to the motion language. The board agreed to revisions. Division staff stated
104 they would obtain a copy of the Code of Ethics from NASW and updated contact information.

105

106 Anne Applebee voted to make Amber Taylor vice chair in her absence.

107

108 ***In a motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, it***
109 ***was resolved to approve Amber Taylor as vice chair for the remainder of the meeting.***

110

111 **The motion passed unanimously.**

112

113 Ann Applebee left the meeting at 2:03 PM.

114

115 Discussions continued about which Code of Ethics to use.

116

117 Everyone agreed on the amendments to the draft from S. Davis.

118

119 Nothing else was discussed.

120

121 **Agenda Item: Adjourn**

122 Meeting adjourned.

123

124 Off the record at 2:26