

**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**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.95.020, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held in Anchorage, Alaska at 550 West 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Thursday, December 12, 2013**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

Board members present, forming a quorum of the Board, were:

Laura Thiesen, Licensed Master Social Worker, acting Chair  
Marilyn B. Kerr, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Zachary Paulson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker

Board members absent:

Jason Floyd, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (joined meeting at 1:35 pm)

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

Don Habeger, Director, by telephone  
Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator  
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

**Ethics Reports**

There were no ethics violations to report.

**Agenda Item 1      Review Agenda**

Agenda item 5 was changed to 10:00 am on Friday. The Board also added two items under new business.

## **Agenda Item 2      Review Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 27, 2013, meeting.

**On a motion duly made by Zachary Paulson, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and passed unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED that the Board accept the September 27, 2013 meeting minutes as amended.**

## **Agenda Item 3      Correspondence**

### **A. Senator Anna Fairclough**

Alaska State Senator Anna Fairclough wrote a letter to the Board asking for assistance and feedback regarding suicide prevention and postvention through educational opportunities. The Senator wrote that she would like to hear perspectives on areas of training and education (of Social Workers), particularly with the University of Alaska.

The Board does not have authority over the University, but spoke regarding their requirements for continuing education. The Board, while pleased that the Senator is interested, they do not believe it necessary to change regulations to make suicide prevention education an additional required category. Board Member Kerr will write an answering letter; the Board will review it.

## **Agenda Item 4      Budget Report**

Director Habeger addressed the Board by telephone. There will be a fee analysis for the June renewal. Based on the Legislative report, the surplus overall has been downward, with expenses increased.

The Director also discussed HB187 with the Board. This bill addresses Occupational Licensing fees in allowing for a consolidation of fees; collection of costs distributed over multiple licensing periods; and investigation funds to be paid out of the general fund.

## **Agenda Item 5      Board Reports**

(also see Agenda Item 11)

### **A. NASWAK Liaison Report**

Marilyn Kerr is the Board's liaison to the National Association of Social Workers Alaska Chapter. She reported that the organization is still reorganizing and are not ready to address the Board's issues/question at this time.

They are discussing having the NASW conference on alternate years instead of every year.

## B. University Liaison Report

Zachary Paulson is the liaison between UAA and UAF. He has met individuals with the UAF. It is felt that the BSW is the minimum standard and they may have a hard time supporting an associate's level license.

## Agenda Item 6 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Agenda Item 7 Investigator's Report

### A. General Report

Investigator Wall-Rood gave the Investigations Report. Through December 1, 2013, there are four open complaints, three open probations, and two open intakes.

Since the last meeting, there has been one investigation, one complaint, and two intakes closed.

**On a motion by Zachary Paulson, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to go into executive session with staff in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2) and (3) for the purpose of discussing applications.**

Into Executive Session: 1:35 pm

Out of Executive Session: 2:15 pm

## Agenda Item 8 Applications/Audit Review

The Board reviewed 1 continuing education audit, 5 CEU Continuing Education Providers' Approval forms and 24 licensure applications.

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to go into executive session with staff in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c)(2) and (3) for the purpose of discussing applications.**

Into Executive Session: 3:55 pm

Out of Executive Session: 4:06 pm

On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and approved unanimously it was

**RESOLVED to approve the following Social Work applications with the stipulation that the information in the applicants' files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:**

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

Andrews, Caitlin  
LeFebvre, Summer  
Milline-Gardenas, Kamesha

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY CREDENTIALS

Haberman, Rona  
Jones, Pamela

MASTER SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

Adiele, Bethel  
Bemis, Paula  
Berkowitz, Allison

MASTER SOCIAL WORKER BY CREDENTIALS

Griffin, Krista  
Woodward, Sharon

BACCALAUREATE SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

Walters, Christine

REINSTATEMENT

Carr, Nicole

ALTERNATE SUPERVISION

Bowen, Kjersti  
Brown, Michael  
Paauw, Cindy

AUDIT OF CONTINUING EDUCATION

Champagne, Lauren

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDER'S APPROVAL

NACC

1. Colorado Theological Seminary Distance Learning
2. The Father-Daughter Connection
3. Counseling for Problems of Self Control

Arrow Child & Family Foundation

Fostering Hope Forum

Frontier Law Group

Managing & Mediating High Conflict Disputes – Advanced Skills Training

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to adjourn until Friday, December 13, 2013, at 9:00 am.**

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.

**Friday, December 13, 2013**

Board members present, forming a quorum of the Board, were:

Laura Thiesen, Licensed Master Social Worker  
Marilyn B. Kerr, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Zachary Paulson, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
Jason Floyd, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker

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

Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator  
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Present from the Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions was:

Elizabeth Giardina, Boards and Commissions Assistant

**Agenda Item 10      New Business**

(was moved to 12/12/13)

A. Updating references in regulation

After discussion, there was no action on changing what is required for references.

B. Update Ethics

Done under Old Business

C. Update ASWB

An FYI

D. CEU limit per day

(note: voting was done on Thursday, 12/12/13, with Jason Floyd absent)

The Board discussed how some licensees are claiming a large number of continuing education hours for a single day; often more than there are hours in a day.

The Board discussed requiring some of the continuing education for license renewal be face-to-face.

**On a motion by Zachary Paulson, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to change 12 AAC 18.210 by adding (e) to read:  
No more than twelve contact hours of continuing education activities can be  
completed in one day.**

And

**RESOLVED to change 12 AAC 18.210 by adding (f) to read: Beginning with renewal in 2016, at least twenty of the required forty-five contact hours of continuing education activities must be face to face/real-time interactive.**

E. License MSW before CSW

There was Board discussion regarding a requirement that an applicant must obtain a master level license in order to begin accumulating hours for the clinical social work level license. This is done in several states. It would require a statute change.

**Agenda Item 11      Scope of Practice Committee Reports**

A. NASWAK-Kerr

The NASWAK is in the process of re-forming and is not ready to address Board issues at this time.

The discussion regarding scope of practice for BSW and MSW is deferred.

B. Paulson – ASWB practice Act/C. Paulson – Liaison UAA

The Director of UAA School of Social Work has asked for more information regarding the Associate License. UAF BSW program indicated that their opinion is that the BSW is the minimum standard. (also noted in Agenda Item number 5)

At this time, Chair Floyd spoke and stated that he wished to reiterate (regarding creating an associate level licensure) that the mission is public safety. To make public safety our focus, we must have a different focus than NASWAK and the schools of social work. This Board should look for feedback and partnership.

D. Floyd – Legislators/statute change

Chair Floyd did not speak with Legislators. He would like the Board to make a list of concerns to give the Legislature, such as outlining why standard of practice is important. He stated that he has seen the negative impact when people receive social work services from non-social work individuals.

9:50 am Chair Floyd relinquished his chair to the Vice-Chair, Laura Thiesen.

## Scope of Practice

On a motion by Jason Floyd, seconded by Zachary Paulson, it was

**RESOLVED to move the Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners undertake the update and revision of 12 AAC 18. 160. Standards of Practice, to reflect current Model Social Work Practice Act.**

**In doing so, unless it can be shown in statute or other regulation that the Board approach this as covering all levels of licensure.**

12 AAC 18.160 reads:

**12 AAC 18.160. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.** A social worker licensed in this state shall adhere to The standards of practice adopted by the Board of Social Work Examiners under this section. The board hereby adopts the “*Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct*”, Parts 1 – 10 of the Model Social Work Practice Act, Model Law Task Force 1996-1997 with amendments, 1998-2001 published by the Association of Social Work Boards, as the standards of practice for social workers licensed in this state.

There was discussion regarding the motion. The Board discussed the fact that the regulation already refers to “a social worker licensed in this state” and that the motion was confusing.

Jason Floyd withdrew the motion.

On a motion by Jason Floyd, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was

**RESOLVED to change 12 AAC 18.160 Standards of Practice to read:**

**12 AAC 18.160. STANDARDS OF PRACTICE.** A social worker licensed in this state shall adhere to The standards of practice adopted by the Board of Social Work Examiners under this section. The board hereby adopts the “*Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct*”, Parts 1 – 10 of the Model Social Work Practice Act, Model Law Task Force 1996-1997 with amendments, 1998-2012 published by the Association of Social Work Boards, as the standards of practice for social workers licensed in this state.

10:30 am – Jason Floyd resumed chair position.

## Agenda Item 12      Old Business

### A. Out of state outreach

This was just an “FYI” regarding a response from the Attorney General’s Office in December 2009 regarding out of state social workers doing outreach.

The AG had stated that an out of state social worker, in addition to not claiming to be licensed in Alaska, also may not use the title “social worker” or “master social worker”, etc, unless the out of state social worker is exempt under AS.08.95.911.

It does not matter whether what the social worker from out of state is doing falls within the definition of social worker under AS 08.95.990(7). If the out of state social worker does not claim to be licensed in Alaska, AS 09.95.100 does not apply to them, and their conduct is legal.

#### B. Code of Ethics

There was discussion regarding the difficulty to even obtain the 1999 edition of the Code of Ethics.

**On a motion by Zachary Paulson, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to change 12 AAC 18.150 by changing 1999 edition to 2008 edition to read:**

**12 AAC 18.150. SOCIAL WORKER CODE OF ETHICS. A social worker licensed in this state shall adhere to the code of ethics adopted by the Board of Social Work Examiners under this section. The board hereby adopts the *Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers, Inc.*, 2008 edition, as the code of ethics for social workers licensed in this state.**

#### Practice Protection

There was discussion regarding practice protection for master social workers and baccalaureate social workers. Statute 08.95.100 contains practice protection for clinical social workers and title protection for MSW and BSW. The discussion involved what to recommend to Legislators and defining levels.

There was no consensus in favor of pursuing at the next meeting.

11:17 am Chair Floyd relinquished his chair to the Vice-Chair, Laura Thiesen.

**On a motion by Jason Floyd, seconded by Zachary Paulson, it was**

**RESOLVED to resolve and develop a formal resolution to the Legislature to add definition from the Model Practice Act 1997-2012 for the master social work level and the baccalaureate social worker level.**

There was discussion. Ms. Kerr did not feel that the Board was ready to bring this to the Legislature. Mr. Floyd stated that if the Board does not do this now, he will proceed privately.

Though the Board states that they feel it is a good direction, however, Mr. Paulson stated that he has not spoken to the Universities regarding this question. Ms. Kerr felt that more talk and decisions needed to be made by the Board regarding the scope of practice.

Jason Floyd – approve the motion

Zachary Paulson – oppose the motion

Marilyn Kerr – oppose the motion

The motion failed.

**On a motion by Jason Floyd, seconded by Zachary Paulson, it was**

**RESOLVED to resolve and carry forward to the Legislature Sec. 08.95.100 License Required, taking sections (1) and (2), which defines the practice for clinical social workers and apply the same language to the master social work level and the baccalaureate level. Make changes and define regulation over practice for those two levels; as applied to section (3) and (4).**

There was discussion

Voting in favor of this motion: Jason Floyd, Zachary Paulson, and Marilyn Kerr

The motion passed.

10:30 am – Jason Floyd resumed chair position.

**Elizabeth Giardina, Boards and Commissions Assistant**

Elizabeth Giardina, Boards and Commissions Assistant answered questions the Board had about the process of finding new members.

**Agenda Item 13 Board Business**

**A. Task List**

Marilyn Kerr – liaison to NASWAK including scope of practice legislation  
Zachary Paulson – liaison to UAA and UAF Social Work Schools/review ASWB Practice Act

**B. Sign Wall Certificates**

The wall certificates were signed.

**C. Schedule future meetings**

March 3 and 4, 2014 in Juneau

May 30, 2014 – where not determined

The meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m.

**D. Sign Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes were signed by the Board Chair.

**E. Discuss Travel Authorizations/collect & sign**

Travel Authorizations were signed by the Board members and submitted.

**F. Training/conferences**

ASWB Spring Education Meeting – May – Marilyn Kerr

**On a motion by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Zachary Paulson, and approved unanimously it was**

**RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.