

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 08.95.020, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,
9 Article 6, scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners originated from Anchorage, 550 West 7th
10 Ave room 1535; this meeting was held in person.
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14 Monday, December 11, 2023
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16 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
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18 **Board Member Present Constituting a Quorum**

19 Ann Applebee, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
20 Anne Wells, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
21 Sharon Woodward, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
22 Stacey Stone, Public Member
23

24 **Board Members Absent**

25 Amber Taylor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Master Social Worker
26

27 **Staff Members Present**

28 Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor
29 Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator II
30 Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager I
31 Jasmin Bautista, Investigations
32 Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist II
33 Rebecca Clay, Occupational Licensing Examiner
34

35 **Members of the Public Present**

36 James Lyon
37

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

39 Ann Applebee, board chair, called the meeting to order and conducted roll call with everyone present except
40 Amber Taylor.
41

42 *In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, it was*
43 *resolved to approve the December 11-12, 2023, agenda as present.*
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45 *The motion carried unanimously.*
46

47 **Agenda Item – Ethics Disclosures**

48 No potential ethical conflicts to disclose.
49
50

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52 **Agenda Item - Financial Report**

53 Melissa Dumas reviewed the financial report for FY23 4th quarter, a non-renewal year. Dumas covered
54 expenditures related to non-investigative, investigative, direct, and indirect. S. Stone asked why there was a
55 necessity for general funds. M. Dumas responded stating in the recent past, the governor would not allow
56 programs to increase fees therefore money was distributed to offset personal service costs. M. Dumas made
57 note that the social work program made up 1% of the division and had seen a 40% growth since 2019.
58

59 **Agenda Item - Application Discussion**

60 Ann Applebee, asked to discuss application #212955.
61

62 ***In a motion duly made by Ann Applebee, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, it was***
63 ***resolved to go into executive session for a discussion about applicant #212955.***
64

65 ***The motion carried unanimously.***
66

67 Off the record – 09:26

68 On the record – 09:46
69

70 **Agenda Item - Regulations Training**

71 Stefanie Davis presented an overview of conducting a regulation project. Board members should consider
72 intentions for the program to move forward with a regulation project. S. Davis outlined motion language and
73 the Project Opening Questionnaire. She went on to discuss the questionnaire should include regulation and
74 any companion regulations that need change. She expanded the discussion about the questionnaire stating it
75 needs to include draft language, considerations for how the regulation change will affect the public either
76 positively or negatively and annotate if the changes should be made for public comment. S. Davis mentioned if
77 the regulation requires public comment, and the board will need to create a FAQ to anticipate any questions
78 the public may have. Next, S. Davis outlined steps for the administrative staff and explained once all
79 preliminary steps are completed, law has 60 days to review and give remarks. She wrapped up the
80 conversation stating the whole process may take anywhere for 6 months to a year.
81

82 **Break**

83 Off the record - 10:04

84 On the record - 10:20
85

86 **Agenda Item - Public Comment**

87 There were no comments from the public.
88

89 **Agenda Item – Amend Agenda to Discuss New Board Member Training**

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91 ***In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, it was***
92 ***resolved to go move the agenda item, New Board Member Training and Delegate Assembly discussion up***
93 ***the agenda item list.***
94

95 ***The motion carried unanimously.***
96

97 Stacey Stone gave an overview of her time in Washington D.C., at the Association of Social Work Board New
98 Board Member training. She stated the attendees were a diverse group of individuals from all over the country
99 and Canada, which aligned with the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She mentioned Alaska's board
100 meets least of all the other boards in her group. She listened to other members explain their situations. For

example, in OH, the board is conjoined with the Board of Counselors, and it was surprising to the group that the Alaska Board allows counselors to supervise social workers. S. Stone explained the State of Alaska experiences a shortage of social workers and in some instances, there are no other options. It was also mentioned from members in Maryland, that because the urban areas are so dense, they also experience a shortage of supervisors. S. Stone provided insight about suicide rates and teletherapy, stressing the need for in-person therapy after hearing a discussion presented by a woman from Vermont. S. Stone expanded on the discussion brought forth by the ASWB on the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), stating the other people in her group who are considered to be non-white, did not feel the perception of DEI aligned with actual outcomes. Her group stated instead of emphasizing race, sex, etc., in terms of the ASWB's exam, they need to emphasize an individual's background and community they serve. S. Stone mentioned she didn't contribute to discussions on DEI as she felt it more important to listen to how non-white groups felt. The discussion ended with S. Stone talking about a conversation with a woman from British Columbia who discussed trends in Canada about First Nation peoples regarding language expansion and inclusivity within the social work field. Ann Applebee thanked S. Stone and commented further to say the exam had created backlash. S. Stone said the ASWB discussed issues with the inherently biased test questions.

Agenda Item - Investigations

Jasmin Bautista presented the Social Work included open and closed cases from 08/29/2023 – 10/06/2023. The report included nine open cases for clinical and master's level social workers. A total of 20 cases were closed. S. Stone asked the difference between intake and complaint. She also inquired about the status date. J. Bautista discussed the investigative process and let board members know if they would like training on investigations to inform the occupational licensing examiner. There was no further investigative business.

Agenda Item - Administrative Business

Modality / Continuing Education

A question was asked by a LCSW about a certification in psychedelic assisted therapy by Integrative Psychiatry Institute by Joint Providership CME Outfitters. The board does not have a stance on modality and that would be a question for the insurance company. A. Applebee explained for continuing education approvals, the agency who provides supervision must submit an approval to the NASW for the course to count for social work. Individuals who attend courses are not the responsible party and cannot request approval on behalf of the agency.

Continuing Education Unit Committee

The board discussed AS 08.05.040(b) requirement to have a continuing education unit committee. No decisions were made but would revisit at a future meeting.

Synchronous Continuing Education

Ann Applebee began discussions about how to define synchronous CEUs and how many should be required for licensure/renewal. A. Applebee pointed out how easy it is to simply take a course online without any interaction and ultimately is a disservice to clients and practitioners as they miss out on the benefit of live interaction. Stacey Stone brought up the point that some CEUs require the learner to type in words periodically throughout the course. Anne Wells remarked she researched and found states require half the CEUs be in-person/synchronous. Jeanne Pace commented that in other division programs, synchronous CEUs have created barriers to licensure because agencies are not required to display in-person/synchronous on the certificate and they would need to update the 'synchronous' definition. Sharon Woodward suggested the subcategories of CEUs be live compared to the State of Nevada. A. Applebee suggested there are ways to accomplish synchronous CEUs and S. Stone added that ultimately applicants are signing a sworn statement. It was determined a regulations project would be necessary.

Agenda Item – RELIAS Discussion

Board member Sharon Woodward discussed CEUs that were questionable as they appeared to be a part of a yearly training that most employees take. S. Woodward stated that some of the CEUs were not applicable to the Social Work field. Rebecca Clay, licensing examiner stated she verified the number of CEUs with the CEU Log and wasn't entirely sure which CEUs were considered acceptable to the board. A. Applebee suggested for those instances where the OLE needed clarification, she would need to reach out to the applicant for a course description. Discussions about approval concluded the CEUs must confirmed they are approved for social work. S. Stone asked to discuss record number 18575 a CEU course for SouthCentral Foundation. The board confirmed that CEUs must not include break and lunch times, or other information irrelevant to social work.

Lunch

Off the record at 11:56 am

On the record at 12:59 pm

Regulations Discussion

A. Applebee did a roll call with everyone present except for Amber Taylor. Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor guided the board through a Process Alignment Worksheet to help guide members through writing regulations. She stated the worksheet provides questions to help clarify how the regulation should be worded, the desired outcome of the regulation (dreams, hopes, goals), changes if needed, and Administrative Impacts. S. Chambers suggested assigning different topics to different board members and open it for discussion to hash out ideas. She furthered the conversation stating that once they knew which regulatory changes are needed and its purpose, S. Davis will then take that information and draft motion language for review. She mentioned that once the board has written language, administrative staff could offer insight to how the regulation will affect processing times. R. Clay ask S. Chambers if she could discuss what a legislative change would look like if the board wanted to add a supervision

Sara Chambers discussed the legislative process statute change stating that it would need to go through the legislative process. They would need wording to submit to legislators from a member of the board. S. Chambers suggested working on regulation for 2025 would be best as this is the last year of the legislative session. S. Stone asked how long the process would take for the drafting phase. She mentioned it might be a long time before they have something written that the legislature would consider. S. Chambers further explained that the Professional Counselors Board was in the legislative process and described the how involved the board member was. Discussion continued about supervision requirements resumed.

Off the record at 2:56 pm

Recess

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196 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,
197 Article 6, scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners originated from Anchorage, 550 West 7th
198 Ave room 1535; this meeting was held in person.
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201

202 Tuesday, December 12, 2023
203

204 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 8:57 am.
205

206 **Board Member Present Constituting a Quorum**

207 Ann Applebee, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
208 Anne Wells, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
209 Sharon Woodward, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker
210 Stacey Stone, Public Member
211

212 **Board Members Absent**

213 Amber Taylor, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Master Social Worker
214

215 **Staff Members Present**

216 Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor
217 Jeanne Pace, Program Coordinator I
218 Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialists II
219 Rebecca Clay, Occupational Licensing Examiner
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221 **Agenda Item – Delegate Assembly**

222 Ann Applebee discussed the Delegate Assembly meeting for the ASWB. Topics included professors who teach
223 social worker at a university but are not licensed, alternate pathways to licensure, states who have inter-
224 organization committees like social work schools & social work groups to discuss meeting to discuss social work
225 issues. A. Wells asked if the NASW could be invited to the next board meeting. A. Applebee mentioned the
226 assembly voted on new members and hopes that each year someone from the board could attend. She also
227 highlighted the regulations were not up to date with the latest code of ethics. S. Davis entered the discussion
228 stating the board would need a regulations project to update the code of ethics. Discussions continued about
229 the regulations project regarding supervision.
230

231 **Agenda Item – Regulations Discussion**

232 The board organized how they would proceed with the regulations project. They decided to adopt a
233 supervision form similar to the division form developed for the Professional Counselors program. They
234 discussed in-person/live CEUs and the benefits of active learning. R. Clay mentioned how the applicants attest
235 to taking in-person/live CEUs. S. Davis stated the attestation is for a renewal and only when audited and the
236 OLE would need to verify in person CEUs. J. Pace explained that how other mental health boards address in-
237 person CEUs, and it varies depending on the program. S. Chambers joined the discussion to clarify questions
238 regarding the CEU committee.

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Break

Off the record at 10:46 am
On the record at 11:01 am

Agenda Item – Tabled Application

In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, it was resolved to go into executive session for a discussion about applicant #213910.

The motion carried unanimously.

Off the record at 11:12 am
On the record at 11:44 am

I, Stacey Stone, moved to deny the LCSW by examination application for applicant 213910 pursuant to 12 AAC 18.140 (c) The Board will deny an application for licensure under AS 08.95 if the board determines that the applicant provided false or misleading statements or information on the application that relates to the applicant’s qualifications for licensure under AS 08.95.

The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item – Future Meetings

January 22, 2024 – Special Board Meeting
March 11, 2024
May 13, 2024
September 30 – October 1, 2024
December 9, 2024

Agenda Item – Compact Discussion

A. Applebee wanted to discuss the possibility of a compact. J. Pace pointed out that a social work compact in the State of Alaska would impact the board in 2 ways. The first would be the boards would need to align statute and regulations with requirements of the compact and the second would be funding because the social work program does not receive money from general funds on an annual basis.

Lunch

Off the record at 12:07 pm
On the record at 1:00 pm

Agenda Item – Regulations Discussion

Discussions continued about the regulation project. Board members filled out the process alignment worksheet to assist with draft language for Clinical Supervision, Code of Ethics, and CEUs. It was decided to open a regulations project.

12 AAC 18.150 – Code of Ethics

Board member Stacey Stone moved, and member Sharon Woodward seconded the following motion:

"I, Stacey Stone, move to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 18.150, pertaining to the Social Work Code of Ethics by approving the following language for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law, to remove the reference to the 2008 edition and insert reference for the 2020 edition."

The motion carried unanimously.

12 AAC 18.112 & 12 AAC 18.200 – Continued Competency and Continuing Education

Board member Stacey Stone moved, and member Sharon Woodward seconded the following motion:

"I, Stacey Stone, move to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 18.112 & 12 AAC 18.210, to amend continuing education requirements for both applicants and licensees as appended to the minutes and to subsequently revise 12 AAC 18.112 so that the corresponding sections are appropriately identified to meet with the new proposed language."

The motion carried unanimously.

12 AAC 18.115 - Supervision

Board member Stacey Stone moved, and member Sharon Woodward seconded the following motion:

"I, Stacey Stone, move to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 18.115 by approving the following language for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law."

The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda Item – Application Discussions

The board discussed an Alternate Supervision request. S. Stone inquired why the supervision requests did not outline the actual plans. A. Applebee exclaimed that would be helpful to add when approving the supervision request.

In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, moved to approve the Alternate Supervision Request for Tennille Limer.

The motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed Southcentral Foundations submission for CEUs and was determined that only 3.5 hours would be approved, and R. Clay would reach out to the organization to communicate what the board will approve towards the CEU course.

Agenda Item –Adjourn

In a motion duly made by Stacey Stone, seconded by Sharon Woodward with unanimous consent, moved to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

Off the Record at 2:46

Date final minutes approved by the board: <input type="checkbox"/> Board Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onboard	01/24/2024
Agenda Item - Adjourn	