

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Social Work Examiners

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



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

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**Board of Social Work Examiners
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Board Membership

Page 1

Accomplishments

Page 2

Activities

Page 4

Needs

Page 5

**Board of Social Work Examiners
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)*

Date of Final Board Approval: 5/2/2025

Licensed Clinical Social Worker: Anne Wells

Master of Social Work: Amber Taylor

Public: Stacey Stone

Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker: vacant

Licensed Clinical Social Worker: vacant

Board of Social Work Examiners FY 2025 Annual Report

Accomplishments

July 15, 2024 the board held a special meeting to review proposed changes to regulation 12 AAC 18 which included updating supervision requirements, synchronous CEUs, and updating regulations to include most recent edition of NASW Code of Ethics. Amendments included transitional language that would allow licensees time to prepare for the change in regulation which will go into effect July 2026. Board discussed scheduling oral hearing for public comment.

September 16, 2024 oral hearing of public comment was held virtually. Public comments included considerations regarding financial impact of synchronous requirements, limitations to supervision availability, barriers to licensure, and potential impacts on clients.

September 30, 2024 board meeting to discuss public comment. Board decided to eliminate the limit of number of supervisees and reduce synchronous requirement to 10 hours as well as adjusted dates of implementation. Board also discussed pursuing a statute change to grant the board the authority to enforce supervisor regulations. Board members were granted authority to speak on behalf of the board to state representatives in attempts to secure a bill sponsor for proposed statutory amendments. During this meeting board also reviewed correspondence regarding unlicensed clinicians under supervision and discussed requiring LMSW while obtaining clinical hours under supervision while working towards LCSW.

October 3-5, 2024 Anne Wells attended New Board Member Training.

November 8-9, 2024 Anne Wells attended ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly

December 9, 2024 the board met to discuss updates from delegate assembly and review nationwide trends regarding Social Work issues, including Compact, licensure exam, and board structures across various jurisdictions. Board also discussed issue from previous meeting regarding unlicensed clinicians and requirement for LMSW. Right Touch Regulation Worksheet was presented to guide discussion on supervisor certificate statute for next meeting.

Ann Applebee, then Chair, announced her resignation effective March 2025. Anne Wells was elected board chair effective at end of board meeting.

December 12, 2025 in addition to form updates by the division, the board of social work eliminated the requirement for continuing education certificates to be submitted with initial application. This change aligned the applications with regulation, reduced barriers to licensure, and reduced the workload for the division.

February 3, 2025 Anne Wells, Chair was informed of sunset audit of the Social Work Board. Chair participated in multiple phone calls and email correspondence with Division of Legislative Audit in full cooperation of evaluation of board operations.

April 2, 2025: the board held an abbreviated meeting to review the social work compact legislation. The board heard from the division about other legislation and discussed whether or not to issue letters of support. The board approved an imposition of civil fine.

The board approved 14 requests for alternate supervision.

The board issued 91 approvals for examination.

The board approved x number of applications (to be tallied in May).

The board reviewed and closed x number of investigations (to be tallied by Jasmin).

**Board of Social Work Examiners
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Activities

September 16, 2024 oral hearing of public comment regulation 12 AAC 18.

October 3-5, 2024 Anne Wells attended New Board Member Training.

November 8-9, 2024 Anne Wells attended ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly

February 2024 – Sunset Audit was initiated by Division of Legislative Audit.

May 2-3, 2025 Amber Taylor attended ASWB Education Meeting.

**Board of Social Work Examiners
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Needs

Current needs include filling 2 vacancies and prioritizing proposed projects in order of importance as well as consideration for timely application approvals. With 2 vacancies, it is essential that all current members are present for scheduled meetings to establish quorum and proceed with board duties.