

**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 7th Avenue.

Friday, June 7, 2013

Call to Order/Roll Call

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

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

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

Daniel O'Tierney, Deputy Commissioner
Don Habeger, Director
Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator, by telephone
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Ethics Reports

There were no ethics violations to report.

Agenda Item 1 Budget Report

Director Don Habeger met with the Board to discuss the budget and travel. Also attending was Deputy Commissioner Daniel O'Tierney.

The current schedule of revenue and expenditures shows the Board with a third quarter surplus of \$72,469.00.

Director Habeger handed out a two year cycle of detailed expenditures to show the ups and downs of the various renewal/non-renewal years.

The Division is working on a new tool to determine costs per license holder. This may change what is charged in the future for various services. For instance, the Division may be charging \$50.00 for an application fee, but the new tool shows the real cost as \$108.00.

He discussed HB187. This will allow consolidation of fees, as there is a huge amount of different fees that must be collected, costing the Division time and money. This may let the Investigations be paid out of the general fund. It would help with public protection, something that is not just a licensee's responsibility. This will help allow stability in fees.

In regards to the previous meeting's discussion on travel fees, it was noted that the Legislature did respond and gave travel more funding. They are addressing third party reimbursement and gave a funding mechanism for these, but it is a maximum for the whole department of \$20,000.00.

There was discussion regarding being able to accept third party paid (to the vendors) costs up front by a professional organization. The Deputy Commissioner noted that the Department is in the middle. They understand a Board's position, but they must abide by the executive branch accounting rules.

Agenda Item 2 Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda discussed changes.

On a motion duly made by Zachary Paulson, seconded by Laura Thiesen, and passed unanimously, it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept the agenda as presented.

Agenda Item 3 Review Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the March 14-15, 2013, meeting.

On a motion duly made by Laura Thiesen, seconded by Marilyn Kerr, and passed unanimously, it was

RESOLVED that the Board accept the September 7, 2012 meeting minutes as amended.

Agenda Item 4 Board Reports

A. NASWAK Liaison Report

Marilynn Kerr is the Board's liaison to the National Association of Social Workers Alaska Chapter.

She reported that the organization is increasing standards for continuing education updates.

B. ASWB Conference Report

Board Member Kerr attended the conference. She reported that the theme was specifically what measures competence. Some states do not feel that just one test is enough and would like to measure competence on an on-going basis. Canada presented a model and work plan. However, it was noted that Boards deal with minimum standards of practice.

There are those who are questioning why, if you have the graduate degree, you cannot just take the examination and become a clinical social worker; they ask why does one need experience.

There were questions raised about how online social work degrees work; do they have measurable differences.

Agenda Item 5 Investigator's Report

A. General Report

Investigator Wall-Rood reflects gave the Investigations Report, which deals with open matters. At this time there are two probations cases. There are six complaints; one in-take pending; and one investigation.

Investigator Wall-Rood gave a brief instruction regarding the investigations process and the Board's place in it.

Agenda Item 6 Old Business

A. FY14 Yearly Reports/Goals/Narrative

The Board worked on their narrative statement to the Division and on their goals/objectives for FY2014. There will be further work on it, but at this time the goals are as follows:

1. Review applications for licensure by credentials/examination at the meetings and/or by mail vote. The Board will continue to license at all levels identified in statute.
2. Review and evaluate the social worker examination and licensing process and insure that business is conducted in a timely manner. Explore regulations regarding examination expiration times.
3. Report disciplinary actions to the Disciplinary Action Reporting System (DARS) of the Association of Social Work Boards.
4. Hold a minimum of two face-to-face meetings in FY 2014. The Board will hold additional face-to-face meetings as needed.
5. Maintain full Board membership at all times.
6. Review the revenues and expenditures of Board business and work with the Division to ensure that the license fees be set at a level to equal costs of conducting Board business.
Continue to work with the Administration, the Division, and the Legislature to resolve travel authorization funding barriers and delays.

7. Send a Board Member and staff to various social work national and regional training and conferences, including New Board Member Training from the Association of Social Work Boards, Association of Social Work Boards' conferences, and NASWAK.
8. In order to maintain communication with NASW, Alaska Chapter, and the Office of Children's Services, as well as any other organization associated with social work, continue to invite their representatives to attend meetings. Maintain relationships thru board liaison with NASWAK and the UA schools of Social Work.
9. Make recommendations for statute and regulation changes as necessary.
10. Continue to improve communication with licensees via the Division of Occupational Licensing website and Board Liaisons.
11. In order to increase communication with the public about social work licensing and with social workers regarding licensure, the Board will move meetings to different cities and possibly in conjunction with the state conference.
12. The Board will continue to collect data and information regarding a new level of licensure at the Associate's level.

B . Associate's License

There has been discussion regarding whether or not to continue adding an associate's level license to the Social Work licensure. This must be done through statute.

There was discussion regarding what states have an associate level license; CSWE does not approve any associate level degrees, but ASWB has an exam for it.

The Board will explore more. Board member Paulson will get information at the ASWB New Board Member training and all members will collect information and determine a way to justify an associate level license, if there are any.

Staff will ask ASWB to put out a question to members as to what states have the license; how to determine the need; and the pros and cons of having the license.

Agenda Item 7 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Agenda Item 8 Applications/Audit Review

The Board reviewed 5 continuing education audits, 38 CEU Continuing Education Providers' Approval forms, and 32 licensure applications.

On a motion by Jennifer Burkholder, seconded by Jennifer Syzdek, 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 1:58 pm

Out of executive session 2:43 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

BELTRAMI, REBECCA
COCKERHAM, SARA
KIMBRELL, MICHELLE
MERWIN, PATRICIA
SCHWEIFZER, SARAH

CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER BY CREDENTIALS

BLAIR, MICHELE
DANIELS, CLIFFORD JR.

MASTER SOCIAL WORKER BY EXAMINATION

BRUMMETT, ELIZABETH
COFFMAN, KATHERINE
ESCO, ADELINA
JOHNSON, SHONTALE
MUIR, REBECCA
NORTHRUP, MEGAN
PAIGE, TRACI
PALKKI, KRISTIN
RISTE-SALZMAN, AMANDA

CEU AUDITS

MCEACHERN, DIANE
NEIGHBORS, CLELL

CONTINUING EDUCATION PROVIDERS APPROVAL

CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS INSTITUTE, INC

2013 Alaska State Trauma Conference

Working with Those That Harm: DV & Interpersonal Violence Perpetrators: What to do; What not to do

Ethics

Psychopharmacology for Clinicians & Counselors

Domestic Violence

Family System

Sugar, Spice, Nothing Nice

2013 Alaska State ARC Training: Attachment, Self-Regulation & Competency

Hazelden Co-occurring Disorders Program: Medication Management

Hazelden Co-occurring Disorders Program: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Hazelden Co-occurring Disorders Program: Family Program

Autism Spectrum Disorders 3 CEU

RUARAL ALASKA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMS
2013 30TH ANNUAL RURAL PROVIDERS/ CONFERENCE

JUSTICE TRACK:

Community Wellness through Self-Governance
Tribal Justice Models to Support Sobriety

Bringing Our Hears Together for Successful Prisoner Reentry

Introduction to the Division of Juvenile Justice

Developing a monitoring program to strengthen tribal courts

Overview of AK Tribal Justice Programs, Funding, & Sustain

Historical Trauma

Alcohol Use in Young Adults: Harm Reduction Approaches

Healing Our Past & Future with Ceremony

Stand Up & Speak Out about Domestic Violence

Nicotine Addition

Sex Trafficking in Alaska: Info for Service Providers

ANTHC –your thoughts @mental health/survey tools

Teens & Trauma

DV: Identifying & Mitigating Effects of DV on Children

Suicide & its Preventions

Cultural Reflections

Collaborative Partnerships to Improve Response to DV & SA

Revitalizing Celebration of Traditional AN Rites of Passage

Honoring Family Roles

TCCP Prevention Efforts in Rural Communities

Agenda Item 9 Code of Ethics

There was discussion regarding continuing to use the “Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers”, 1999 edition as the code of ethics for social workers licensed in Alaska; writing a new code; adopting the newer version of the NASW code; or leaving it as it is.

There was dialogue regarding the standards of practice. The Board has adopted through regulations, the “Standards of Practice/Code of Conduct”, parts 1-10 of the Model Social Work Practice Act.

Board Member Kerr found that the Model Social Work Practice Act changes every three years.

The regulations now are as follows:

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.*, 1999 edition, as the code of ethics for social workers licensed in this state.

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 were questions regarding whether or not the 1999 edition is available to people, preferably on-line.

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

RESOLVED to table this discussion until the next meeting after more information is obtained.

Agenda Item 10 New Business

A. Changes to mail ballots

Mail ballots will now be accessed through a confidential website that is through the state system.

Agenda Item 11. Correspondence

A. Adamson – change statute

Ms. Adamson requested that she be allowed to reduce the requirement under 08.95.110(a) from two years to one year of full time employment. The Board is unable to alter requirements under a statute. That is done only by the Legislature.

B. ASWB Exam Rates – FYI

The Association of Social Work Boards sent the 2012 examination pass rates for Alaska. The pass rate for North America is 69.5%; the pass rate for Alaska is 81.4%.

C. Wargo – out of state phone therapist

An out of state LCSW requested information on the Board’s stance if an out of state therapist is providing clinical services to people in Alaska via Skype.

The Board consensus is that they would like social workers to be licensed in Alaska if your client is in Alaska.

Agenda Item 13 Board Business

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

RESOLVED to establish a working committee for ASWB award nominations.

The Committee is comprised of Laura Thiesen and Marilyn Kerr.

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

RESOLVED to appoint Board Member Zachary Paulson as the Board Liaison to the University of Alaska Anchorage and the University of Alaska Fairbanks' social work schools.

A. Task List

Marilyn Kerr – liaison to NASWAK
Zachary Paulson – liaison to UAA and UAF Social Work Schools
Laura Thiesen & Marilyn Kerr – ASWB award nominations committee
All Board – get information regarding associate level licensure

B. Sign Wall Certificates

The wall certificates were signed.

C. Schedule future meetings

September 27, 2013 in Anchorage

December 13, 2013 in Anchorage

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 Annual Training -- 1st attendee -- Jason Floyd; 2nd attendee -- Jennifer Syzdek
(changed at a later date due to them being unable to attend)

ASWB New Member Training -- Zachary Paulson

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

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.