

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

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
May 23rd, 2017

By Authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a board meeting of the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners was held May 23rd, 2017 via teleconference.

Tuesday May 23rd, 2017

Agenda item #1 Call to order:

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Danielle LaFon at 9:09 a.m.

Roll call:

Danielle LaFon, Chairperson
Angie Christiansen
Laura Thiesen
Rachel Olson – arrived at 9:12AM

Board staff:

Chelsea S Childress, Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item #2 Review Agenda

Changes were discussed among the Board to add correspondence under 'Administrative Business'.

Additionally, Laura Thiesen mentioned the subcommittee wasn't able to meet.

A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Angie Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as amended.

Agenda item #3: Administrative Business

Ethics report:

Chairperson Danielle LaFon mentioned the rules for ex-parte communication and that members must report on record to the Chair. Since she is the chair, it was unclear how to self-report. Ms. LaFon had a licensee reach out regarding a pending request for alternate supervision. Ms. LaFon had recused herself from voting and, with having a vacant position on the board, reaching a quorum was delayed. The last vote was received shortly after, completing the quorum and finishing the ballot. While this was not an ethics conflict, as Ms. LaFon recused her vote, all ex-parte communications must be reported and noted for record.

Licensing Examiner Chelsea Childress will research further on how the Chair reports ex-parte communication.

Correspondence:

The Board reviewed two correspondence questions:

CEU Inquiry regarding credit for a conference: *International Conference on Trauma and Mental Health 2017*

The inquiry included certificates of completion and supporting documentation for the conference. The conference awarded 12 European CME credits (ECMEC); which is equivalent to 12 American Medical Association (AMA PRA Category 1 Credit)s. The Board determined the conference was acceptable for credit per 12 AAC 18.220(b)(5)-(6).

12 AAC 18.220. APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES. (a) *To be accepted by the board, continuing education must contribute directly to the professional competency of a social worker and must be directly related to the skills and knowledge required to implement social work principles and methods as defined in AS 08.95.990.*

(b) *The following continuing education activities are acceptable if they are related to social work in accordance with (a) of this section:*

- (1) *postgraduate courses in social work given by an academic institution, either audited or for credit;*
- (2) *courses offered by or certified by the Association of Social Work Boards;*
- (3) *courses offered by or certified by the National Association of Social Workers or any state chapter of the National Association of Social Workers;*
- (4) *courses offered by a program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;*
- (5) *seminars, workshops, or mini-courses offered by professional organizations;*
- (6) *cross-disciplinary courses, seminars, or workshops in the fields of medicine, law, behavioral sciences, or other disciplines;*
- (7) *other courses not covered under (1) - (6) of this subsection that are specifically preapproved by the board, up to a maximum of 15 contact hours;*
- (8) *first-time preparation and presentation of a social work course, seminar, or workshop, up to a maximum of 10 contact hours allocated among all social workers and other professionals involved; and*
- (9) *first-time presentation or publication of an article or book chapter related to the practice of social work that was presented at a state or national association meeting or published by a publisher recognized by the profession, up to a maximum of 10 contact hours allocated among all social workers and other professionals involved.*

(c) *Hours spent in job orientation may not be accepted as continuing education contact hours.*

Supervision Inquiry for alternate/distance supervision

The inquiry included a letter from the employer requesting LCSW supervision outside of the workplace for an employee working towards clinical licensure, as only LPC's, etc. were available to provide supervision within the facility. The Board approved the supervision request per 12 AAC 18.115(d)-(e).

12 AAC 18.115. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK LICENSE. (a) *To meet the requirements of AS 08.95.110(a)(2), an applicant for a clinical social work license must document at least 100 hours of direct clinical supervision equitably distributed throughout the supervised period. No more than 50 hours required by this subsection may be in group supervision. For good cause shown, the board will, in its discretion, grant a written request from an applicant for an exception to the limitation on the number of group supervision hours.*

(b) *The board will, in its discretion, approve the supervision of experience of an applicant for a clinical social work license to satisfy the requirements of AS 08.95.110(a)(2) if the clinical supervisor*

- (1) *documents the applicant's supervised experience on a form provided by the department; and*
- (2) *is a clinical social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist who holds an unrestricted license to practice that profession in this state or other licensing jurisdiction during the period of supervision.*

(c) *To be accepted by the board,*

- (1) *direct clinical supervision must be provided in face-to-face meetings between the supervisor and the applicant unless the board, for good cause shown, has granted an exception allowing for an alternate form of supervision.*
- (2) *if direct clinical supervision is not provided to the applicant within the applicant's agency of employment, the applicant must provide the board with a written release from the administrator of the applicant's agency for the applicant to be supervised outside the applicant's agency setting; and*
- (3) *the clinical supervisor must be responsible for direct clinical supervision of the applicant within the following content areas:*
 - (A) *clinical skills;*
 - (B) *practice management skills;*
 - (C) *skills required for continuing competence;*
 - (D) *development of professional identity;*
 - (E) *ethical practice;*
 - (F) *legal and regulatory requirements.*

(d) To receive the exception in (c)(1) of this section, an applicant who practices in a remote location must, before the supervision begins, submit a written request to the board to allow supervision by telephonic or electronic means. The board will approve a request for telephonic or electronic supervision of an applicant who practices in a remote location if the board determines that

(1) approved clinical supervisors are not practicing at, or within a reasonable distance of, that location; or

(2) the approved clinical supervisors practicing at that location cannot provide appropriate supervision because of the supervisor's relationship to the applicant, a possible conflict of interest, or other good cause shown.

(e) For good cause shown to the board's satisfaction, the board will accept an alternate plan of supervision that varies from the requirement of this section, if the applicant

(1) submits the alternate plan in writing to the board; and

(2) receives approval of the alternate plan by the board before the applicant begins the alternate supervised experience.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Thiesen and seconded by Ms. Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the alternate supervision request for Annette Senger.

Review Meeting Minutes:

The Board reviewed the drafted minutes presented in the Board Book and noted minor corrections to the minutes. The revisions included changes to margins and roll call, noting Ms. Childress joined the meeting via teleconference.

A motion duly made by Ms. Laura Thiesen, seconded by Ms. Angie Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to accept the March 3rd, 2017 minutes as amended.

Ms. Childress shall mail the revised final minutes to Chairperson Danielle LaFon to sign and return. Upon receipt of the signed minutes, Ms. Childress will post them to the State of Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners webpage.

Laura Thiesen inquired about an email Ms. Childress sent in regards to signing the September 2016 minutes. Ms. Childress noted she will mail the minutes to Ms. Thiesen as she was active chairperson at the time.

Break at 10:27AM

Back at 10:35AM

Agenda Item #4

Old Business

The Board began discussing their plan to draft regulations for teletherapy implementation. Ms. Childress and Ms. Thiesen provided attachments with language to consider when drafting regulations. Ms. Thiesen noted she referenced the Marital and Family Therapist draft and the ASWB *Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice* when composing her attachment. Ms. Thiesen noted the MFT draft wasn't directly applicable to Social Work and that she mainly used the ASWB model. Ms. Childress referenced the current statutes and regulations for consistency in language, and the ASWB *Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice*.

The Board discussed cost effective methods for adopting language for teletherapy. Ms. LaFon noted that adopting a template from ASWB would be more efficient and cost effective for the Board in the long run, and, due to the growing and changing nature of teletherapy, there may be unnecessary hardship on the Board to draft and change regulations again due to unforeseen circumstances.

There was similar language previously adopted in the Social Work Examiners Statutes and Regulations under the Social Workers Code of Ethics (12 AAC 18.150) and the Standards of Practice (12 AAC 18.160). While adopting the ASWB model for teletherapy, there would still be other items not addressed (i.e. licensure requirements, education requirements, etc.). With adding the language to adopt the ASWB *Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice*, the Board would still draft specific regulations to address eligibility, etc.

Ms. Childress' handout provided drafted language for Eligibility to Practice Teletherapy, and Limitations for Teletherapy Practice. The eligibility language notes requirements for licensure and initial teletherapy training. It was discussed whether the teletherapy training requirements would be a hardship for licensees to obtain. Ms. Thiesen researched resources where licensees may obtain teletherapy training and emailed these resources to Ms. Childress for distribution to the Board for review. Upon review it was determined that teletherapy training is available to licensees who wish to pursue this requirement. The language providing limitations for teletherapy notes similar restrictions as obtaining clinical supervision. The Board discussed the specific verbiage used and provided a few revisions for Ms. Childress.

Ms. LaFon inquired about an audit for the initial teletherapy training, as there are audits for renewals and continuing education, authorized under Centralized Regulation 12 AAC 02.960. Ms. Childress noted she would have to research further to see if the Board has the authority to do so.

In the drafted eligibility regulation there was a requirement for an affidavit, attesting to multiple items including compliance with training/education requirements. Ms. LaFon noted revisions to the language provided under the eligibility regulation, requesting the affidavit for compliance, to include: review of the teletherapy standard issued by ASWB, ensuring proper identification of the client, and understanding the importance of establishing a meaningful client-therapist relationship.

Ms. LaFon volunteered to make revisions to the draft presented during this meeting in accordance with the changes discussed and forward it to Licensing Examiner Chelsea Childress. Revisions were completed during the meeting and emailed to Chelsea, who distributed the draft to the remaining board members for review during the meeting. Ms. Childress will seek clarification regarding the Board's authority to audit certificates of completion for initial teletherapy training and specific language needed to address this request. Additionally, the draft shall be presented during the June 2nd board meeting for further review and discussion.

The Board did not meet with Marilyn Zimmerman, Paralegal for the discussion regarding consent agreements. Upon review of previous meeting minutes and consultation with Ms. Childress, Ms. Zimmerman determined that she did not need to meet with the Board.

Agenda item #5 **Public Comment**

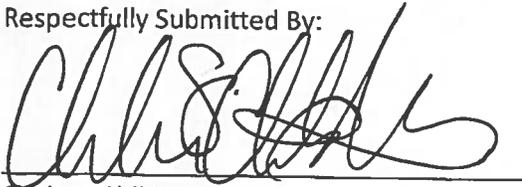
The Board had no individuals present for the public commenting period.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Thiesen and seconded by Ms. Christiansen, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to adjourn the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners.

Adjourned at 11:56 AM

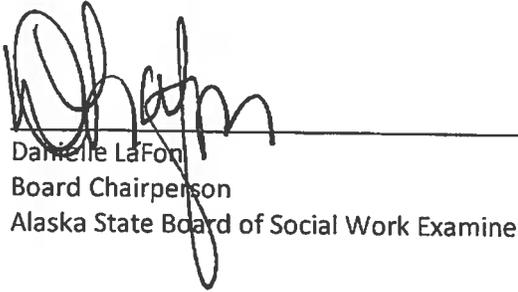
Respectfully Submitted By:



Chelsea Childress
Occupational Licensing Examiner
State of Alaska, CCED

~~6.5.17~~ 6.5.17

Date



Danielle LaFon
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

5 JUNE 2017

Date