

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

Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners
September 17, 2019

*These are drafted minutes prepared by staff of the Alaska State
Board of Social Work Examiners
They have not be reviewed or approved by the Board.*

Written meeting minutes only reflects a brief overview of the business conducted during the boards meeting. For a more detailed account, please request a copy of the meeting recording.

By Authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners was held September 17, 2019. The meeting was held via teleconference originating at 333 Willoughby Ave, State Office Building, 9th Floor Conf. Room B, Juneau, AK 99801.

September 17, 2019

Agenda item #1 **Call to order/Roll Call**

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Danielle LaFon at **8:29AM**.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Danielle LaFon, Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, Chairperson
Mindy Swisher, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Brandon Ercanbrack, Licensed Clinical Social Worker
Colleen Vague, Public Member

Board Members absent:

Geoffrey McCormick, Licensed Master Social Worker (Arrived late at 8:54AM)

Division Staff present were:

Lauren Osborn, Occupational Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item #2 **New Board Member**

With a new board member in attendance, the board took some time making introductions and welcoming the newest board member: Mr. Brandon Ercanbrack.

Agenda Item #3 **Review Agenda**

The board reviewed the proposed agenda and had no additions to make.

A motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to approve the agenda as presented.

Agenda item #4 **Review Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the drafted minutes presented in the Board Book. There were no revisions or additions made.

A motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to accept the July 8-9, 2019 minutes as presented.

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

With additional time before the Investigative Report, the Board moved on to discuss Correspondence.

Office of Administrative Hearings Request:

The board reviewed a request from the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) regarding Case No. 13-1555-CSW. The person in reference to this case submitted a request for the publication to be taken off the site. In accordance with AS 44.62.500, OAH is required to publish agency final decisions online. OAH invited the board to review the request submitted and decide how best to proceed. It was the board's position that, if OAH is required by law to publish public hearings final decisions, it would be an over reach of the board's authority to override this.

ASWB Delegates Assembly:

Ms. Osborn presented an email received from ASWB regarding the Annual Delegates Assembly 2019. Ms. LaFon elected to be an alternate if Mr. McCormick is unable to attend the conference. A travel request will be submitted after registration has been complete.

Grandfathering Question:

The board received correspondence regarding license grandfathering and the acceptability of this within the state of Alaska. Ms. LaFon stated that while the board does have some grandfathering regulations stated in Sec. 08.95.911, the statute was very stringent and the persons submitting the question would not qualify and would be required to take the examination.

Agenda item #5 Ethics Reporting

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

Agenda Item #6 Investigative report

Geoffry McCormick entered the meeting at 8:54AM.

Investigator III, Billy Homestead entered the meeting at 8:55AM.

Inv. Homestead reviewed the investigative report for the period of June 25, 2019 through August 30, 2019. The Division opened one (1) matter and closed three (3) matters. Three (3) matters remain ongoing and under active investigation. The board presented no questions for Inv. Homestead.

Investigator III, Billy Homestead exited the meeting at 8:58AM.

Agenda item #7 Continuing Education Audits

A motion duly made by Ms. Mindy Swisher, seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to enter Executive Session with division staff, Lauren Osborn, present at 9:06AM to discuss Continuing Education Audits.

A motion duly made by Ms. Mindy Swisher, seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to exit Executive Session with division staff, Lauren Osborn, present at 9:18AM to discuss Continuing Education Audits.

Roll Call:

Danielle LaFonGeoffry McCormick
Mindy Swisher
Brandon Ercanbrack
Colleen Vague

Division staff:

Lauren Osborn

TASK – Geoffry McCormick will draft a Position Statement regarding continuing education hours obtained in one day per 12 AAC 18.210(e).

Agenda item #8 **New Business**

ASWB Exam Specific Differences:

Ms. Osborn presented the board with an email from Cara Sanner with ASWB regarding the specific differences between the Clinical and Master examinations. Per the email received, there is no comparability between the two exams. Analysts review seventy social workers new to practice in every level of licensure and evaluate what they do to establish a basis of knowledge, skills, and abilities required to fulfill these licenses. The tests are then based on these results.

2017 Analysis of the Practice of Social Work:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Tech-Report.pdf;!9_CTV20a17M!LM66EpNyyoSzkGUK3jkG8Q-WuLhCiehbv5diLOauOYzDmi-O6QKtS-j-z-C43HFTzzXBw\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Tech-Report.pdf;!9_CTV20a17M!LM66EpNyyoSzkGUK3jkG8Q-WuLhCiehbv5diLOauOYzDmi-O6QKtS-j-z-C43HFTzzXBw$)

2017 Analysis of Practice of Social Work Overview:

[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Summary-Documents-FINAL.pdf;!9_CTV20a17M!LM66EpNyyoSzkGUK3jkG8Q-WuLhCiehbv5diLOauOYzDmi-O6QKtS-j-z-C43Fr_zft8A\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Summary-Documents-FINAL.pdf;!9_CTV20a17M!LM66EpNyyoSzkGUK3jkG8Q-WuLhCiehbv5diLOauOYzDmi-O6QKtS-j-z-C43Fr_zft8A$)

Exam Development:

<https://www.aswb.org/exam-candidates/about-the-exams/exam-development/>

This link discusses exam content outlines for a big picture overview: <https://www.aswb.org/exam-candidates/about-the-exams/exam-contentoutlines/>

And then specifically the content outlines for each exam are here:

Masters: <https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2018-Masters.pdf>

Clinical: <https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2018-Clinical.pdf>

It was the board's position, in accordance with Alaska Social Work Statutes and Regulations and the answer received from ASWB, that one exam cannot be accepted for another.

Continuing Education Committee:

Ms. Osborn provided the board with answers to questions posed at the meeting held July 8-9, 2019 regarding the Continuing Education Committee required in Sec. 08.95.040. Ms. Osborn stated that no other board has a statute like this. The board discussed the consequences of not having a Continuing Education Committee. As they would not be following their statutes, it may end up being reported in the Sunset Audit Findings. It was also proposed to the board that if they were uninterested in maintaining a Continuing Education Committee, then the board may move forward

with lobbying for statutory change. It was determined that a subcommittee should be created to establish the duties and desired outcome of the Continuing Education Committee.

A motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague, seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to create a subcommittee consisting of Ms. Mindy Swisher and Mr. Brandon Ercanbrack with the purpose of establishing the Continued Education Committee guidelines.

Practice Protection for LMSW:

The board discussed the possibility of pursuing LMSW practice protection. As it stands, only Clinical Social Work practice has protection under Sec. 08.95.100(a)(1)(2). Therefore, individuals with a master's degree may gain clinical supervision without first obtaining a Master license. Ms. LaFon expressed her interest in pursuing LMSW practice protection. Ms. LaFon posed the question that if the board were to pursue LMSW practice protection, then should the practice protection then extend to the LBSW as well? Mr. Ercanbrack stated that the practice protection should be on all levels of licensure.

TASK – Lauren Osborn will research other states statues and regulations with LBSW and LMSW practice protection.

TASK – Lauren Osborn will research the lobbying process to make changes to the statutes.

The board began a break at 10:15AM.

The board returned from break at 10:25AM.

Agenda item #9 Application review

The board began application review. To better help Mr. Ercanbrack understand the process of reviewing applications, the board reviewed an application together.

A motion duly made by Mr. Brandon Ercanbrack, seconded by Ms. Colleen Vague, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to enter Executive Session with division staff, Lauren Osborn, present at 10:30AM.

A motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to exit Executive Session with division staff, Lauren Osborn, present at 11:34AM.

Roll Call:

Danielle LaFon
Geoffry McCormick
Mindy Swisher
Brandon Ercanbrack
Colleen Vague

Division staff:

Lauren Osborn

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska by Examination pending appropriate fees:

LCSW Applications by Examination

Joanna Frost – LCSW #143834
Kathryn Bullock – LCSW #147041
Kristen McKay – LCSW #149475
Mary Nissen – LCSW #105898
Misti Musgrave – LCSW #148301

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Mindy Swisher, seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska by

Credentials:

LCSW Applications by Credentials

Jacqueline Scurlock – LCSW #147557
Jodie Menish – LCSW #143173

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska by

Examination:

LMSW Applications by Examination

Kameron Daniels – LMSW #143564
Tenelle Bragg – LMSW #147753

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Mindy Swisher, seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following applications for licensure in Alaska by

Credentials:

LMSW Applications by Credentials

Caitlin Wankowski – LMSW #139567
Kim Pearson – LMSW #134714
Marcia Bryant – LMSW #144852

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, seconded by Ms. Mindy Swisher, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to approve the following Continuing Education Provider applications for licensure in Alaska:

CE Provider Approval

Sex Therapy for Non-Sex Therapists - #17445

Reinstatement:

The board discussed creating a regulation to include the reinstatement of licenses. Due to the language in the centralized statutes regarding license reinstatement, the board is unsure if they may pursue changes outside of five-year range.

TASK – Ms. Osborn will research if the board is able to create a regulation for reinstatement over five years.

License Inactive Status:

TASK – Ms. Osborn will research other boarded programs requirements and language regarding changing the status of a license from “active” to “inactive.”

License Verification:

As it stands in the licensing requirements, applicants must submit only one license of verification in accordance with Sec 08.95.120 while the application requests all licenses held to be verified. The board intends to pursue language changes in this statute to match that language in the application and will be a part of the lobbying processes for other changes that will be pursued.

Agenda Item #13

Right-Touch Regulation for Licensing

Ms. Osborn briefly explained the Right-Touch Regulation for Licensing presentation while the board reviewed the PowerPoint presentation. The board is meant to use the tool provided by the department to read and review all statutes and regulations of the Alaska Social Work Examiners Board. The point of this is to determine where any conflicts, possible changes, or barriers to licensure may be to eliminate or rectify those identified.

Agenda Item #14

Administrative Business

Meeting Dates:

Due to the timing of Legislative Session, Ms. Osborn mentioned the board may want to set meeting dates within legislative session, the tentative date being January 27-28, 2020. Meeting dates that are scheduled on a Thursday or Friday make it hard for Division Staff to attend due to obligations with Legislative Session. The board agreed to change the tentative meeting date to Monday and Tuesday, January 27th – 28th. The board also set tentative meeting dates for a teleconference on June 9, 2020 and an in-person meeting for October 5-6, 2020. It was also mentioned, due to the travel restrictions with the state currently in place, these dates may need to be revisited and/or rescheduled.

Travel:

The board discussed travel with ASWB for 2020. With new board members, the board discussed sending Mindy Swisher and Brandon Ercanbrack to the New Board Member Training set to take place on June 11-13, 2020 or August 20-22, 2020.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague and seconded by Mr. Geoffrey McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to send Mindy Swisher and Brandon Ercanbrack to either the June or August ASWB New Board Member Training of 2020.

The board also discussed sending Ms. Swisher and Ms. LaFon to the Spring Education Conference set to take place on April 23-25, 2020.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Geoffrey McCormick and seconded by Mr. Brandon Ercanbrack, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to send Mindy Swisher and Danielle LaFon to the ASWB 2020 Spring Education Conference.

Task List:

TASK – Geoffry McCormick will draft a Position Statement regarding continuing education hours obtained in one day per 12 AAC 18.210(e).

TASK – Ms. Osborn will research other states statues and regulations with LBSW and LMSW practice protection.

TASK – Ms. Osborn will research the lobbying process to make changes to the statutes.

TASK – Ms. Osborn will research if the board is able to create a regulation for reinstatement over five years.

With no further business to discuss the board moved to adjourn.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Colleen Vague and seconded by Mr. Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

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

Adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Lauren Osborn
Occupational Licensing Examiner
State of Alaska, DCCED, CBPL

Date

Danielle LaFon
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

Date