

B. Annual Report Update

The board was informed that the Annual Report has been completed and is now posted on the website.

C. Administrative Business

During review of the minutes from October 5, 2020, OLE Davis found a regulation project that had been previously discussed by the board. This was brought before the board again to see if they would like to move forward with the regulation change. Below is an excerpt from the October 5, 2020 meeting minutes:

“A motion duly made by Danielle LaFon, seconded by Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to strike (d) from 12 AAC 18.115

A motion duly made by Danielle LaFon, seconded by Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

**Resolved to revise 12 AAC 18.115 (c)(1) to state: (c)to be accepted by the board,
(1) direct clinical supervision must be provided in synchronous meetings between the supervisor and the applicant”**

RLS Derr will put the regulation changes into a FAQ regulation worksheet to give to the Regulations Specialist. Once completed, this will go out for public comment.

Agenda item #5 Compacts/SB21

The board reviewed SB21 which pertains to military personnel and spouses. The department or appropriate board may issue a temporary courtesy license to an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States or the spouse of an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States. The temporary license would be expedited and would be required to be issued within 30 days after the appropriate board receives the person’s completed application for the temporary license. SB21 goes into effect on January 1, 2022.

The Board of Psychology is using language from their Emergency Courtesy License regulations to make additional language for Expedited Military Licensure. Since the Social Work board also has Emergency Courtesy License regulations, they could do look into doing the same. The division is looking to circle back on this topic in October so when this bill goes into effect in January the board has input on what they are willing to do.

No decisions or action on this agenda item has been made at this time. The board will set an October meeting date once additional information has been received from the Division.

With time before Investigations, the board elected to move on to New Business. All new business notes are under agenda item #12.

Agenda items #6, #7, #8 Investigations

Investigators Josh Hardy and Amber Whaley joined the meeting at 9:59am

Investigator Hardy reviewed the investigative report for the period of March 27, 2021 through August 9, 2021. The Division opened twenty (20) matters and closed fourteen (14) matters.

The board chair inquired about if there are any trends to what types of investigations seem to be occurring to see how the board could empower social workers so there aren't as many complaints happening. Investigator Hardy stated that there are no specific trends happening at this time.

Investigative Memo (Executive Session)

A motion duly made by Geoffry McCormick, seconded by Sharon Woodward, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved that the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners enter into Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain present: Lacey Derr, Stefanie Davis, Josh Hardy, and Amber Whaley.

*The board went off record into Executive Session at 10:06am
Back on the record at 10:17am*

A motion made by Sharon Woodward, and by roll call vote, was:

<i>Resolved to approve request to reconsider case number 2021-000582</i>				
	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher		x		
Geoffry McCormick		x		
Sharon Woodward		x		
Brandon Ercanbrack				x
Gabriel King				x

MOTION DID NOT PASS

Investigators Josh Hardy and Amber Whaley exited the meeting at 10:19am

*The board took a recess at 10:48am
The board returned from recess and went back on record at 10:59am*

Agenda item #9 Office of Administrative Hearings, Deliberative Process (Executive Session)

Board Member Brandon Ercanbrack and Judge Carmen Clark joined the meeting at 10:59am

A motion duly made by Geoffry McCormick, seconded by Brandon Ercanbrack, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved that the Board of Social Work Examiners enter into deliberative session under AS 44.62.310(d) solely to make a decision in the following adjudicatory proceeding:

In the Matter of Windy Russ, Board Case Number 2017-000796 & 2018-001315, Office of Administrative Hearings Case Number 20-0659-CSW.

The parties, their attorneys, and all the members of the public must be excluded from the deliberative session. The administrative law judge and administrative Board staff will remain with the Board during the deliberative session.

The board went off record into Executive Session at 11:02am

Back on the record at 12:33pm.

The board took a recess at 12:33pm

The board returned from recess and went back on record at 12:47pm

After discussion, the board voted to accept the Adoption language for this Board Case with the amended language as presented:

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher	x			
Geoffry McCormick	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			
Brandon Ercanbrack	x			
Gabriel King				x

A motion duly made by Brandon Ercanbrack, seconded by Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved that the Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners accept the revisions of the proposed sanctions and the revised disciplinary actions as described: The ALASKA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS, in accordance with AS 44.64.060(e)(3), revises the enforcement action, determination of best interest, order, award, remedy, sanction, penalty, or other disposition of the case as follows:

Windy Russ's license is suspended for eighteen months to be followed by twenty-four months of supervised probation. She is required to complete six hours of approved ethics training: three hours focused on dual relationships and three hours focused on the NASW Code of Ethics. Ms. Russ is to complete the ethic training within one year of the final order in this matter. She is fined \$1,000.00; however, the fine will not be imposed if the ethics training is completed within one year of the final order in this matter.

Judicial review of this decision may be obtained by filing an appeal in the Alaska Superior Court in accordance with AS 44.62.560 and Alaska R. App. P. 602(a)(2) within 30 days after the date of distribution of this decision. Dated this 24th of August, 2021

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher	x			
Geoffry McCormick	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			
Brandon Ercanbrack	x			
Gabriel King				x

C. ASWB Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly Update

The travel request for this conference has been submitted to the travel desk. This is currently taking place in person in New Orleans, LA and has not been changed to virtual as of this date. Per ASWB, more information will be sent out via email next week in early September. Mindy is currently set up as the Delegate for Alaska.

D. Exam Extension/Substance Use CE Definition Position Statements

- Multiple requests have recently come before the board regarding second or third exam extension requests. During the April 2021 board meeting, the board discussed the precedent of approving only one exam extension request per applicant. The regulations currently state: “**12 AAC 18.100. APPLICATION FOR LICENSE BY EXAMINATION** (c) Once an application is approved by the board, the applicant must sit for the examination within one year from the date of board approval. For good cause shown, the board will, in its discretion, grant a written request from an applicant for an extension of time to sit for the examination.” Once the first exam extension request expires, the applicant would then need to reapply and provide new references. A new application fee would need to be paid. A second license fee would not be required. The board will write a Position Statement for clarification on this regulation for applicants. This will be posted online once completed by the board.

- A Position Statement was drafted in 2018 for clarification on Behavioral Addictions vs. Substance Abuse for Continuing Education requirements. After review of this draft, the board requested that “Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders” be added to the list of behavioral addiction as this is topic is not acceptable for Substance Abuse Continuing Education.

After discussion, the board voted to approve the Position Statement with the amended language.

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher	x			
Geoffrey McCormick	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			
Brandon Ercanbrack				x
Gabriel King				x

E. Telemedicine Guidelines

The Social Work Board has regulations in place for Teletherapy Practice. A few concerns have come up with other mental health boards regarding practicing telemedicine and ensuring the licensees are properly licensed in Alaska. If a business tells a licensee that the business has a Telemedicine Business license so the licensee does not need to be licensed in Alaska, this is incorrect. If you are providing telemedicine in Alaska, you must have an Alaskan professional license.

Mindy noted that Continuing Education for telemedicine is not currently a requirement for initial licensure, only for renewals. It was stated that the board may want to look at including telemedicine Continuing Education for initial licensure via credentials since telemedicine is becoming much more common. RLS Derr will start a matrix for telesupervision requirements by state, as this concern is coming across all mental health boards. The board will look into this further at their next scheduled meeting.

F. Board Member Reports

No Board Member Reports were made.

G. Emergency Courtesy License Regulation/Declaration Review

The board currently has the power to declare an emergency to reinstate the Emergency Courtesy License for 90 days based on certain criteria. An increased mental health crisis would qualify. At this point, the State of Alaska has not declared an emergency due to the reemergence of COVID-19. The board is taking the lead from the state and will not be declaring an emergency at this time. The board will keep this agenda item on their radar and will continue to review this during their upcoming meetings to ensure they are staying on top of the situation.

H. Schedule Meetings

The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2021. Additional board meetings will be set at the December 20 meeting when all members of the board are present.

Agenda item #13 Application Review

A motion duly made by Sharon Woodward, seconded by Geoffry McCormick, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved that the Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners enter into Executive Session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Board staff to remain present: Lacey Derr, Stefanie Davis.

*The board went off record into Executive Session at 1:20pm
Back on the record at 1:41pm*

The board approved the following previously tabled applications after discussion: 177013, 172679

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher	x			
Geoffry McCormick	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			
Brandon Ercanbrack				x
Gabriel King				x

Application #168203 is tabled due to being short 0.75 Substance Abuse CEUs. OLE Davis will reach out to applicant to have this completed.

The board approved the following previously tabled application after discussion: 158132

	APPROVE	DENY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Mindy Swisher	x			
Geoffry McCormick	x			
Sharon Woodward	x			
Brandon Ercanbrack				x
Gabriel King				x

Agenda item #14 **Adjourn**

A motion duly made by Geoffry McCormick, seconded by Sharon Woodward, and approved by unanimous consent, was:

Resolved to adjourn the Alaska State Social Work Board Meeting at 1:50 PM

Adjourned at 1:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted By:

DocuSigned by:



C80A28A0A555413...
Stefanie Davis

Occupational License Examiner
State of Alaska, DCCED, CBPL

1/13/2022

Date

DocuSigned by:



9F237A2A86A2448...
Mindy Swisher

Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Social Work Examiners

1/11/2022

Date