

**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
November 6, 2006**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held December 11, 2006, by teleconference.

Monday, November 6, 2006

Call to Order/Roll Call

The teleconference meeting was called to order by Sammye Pokryfki, Board Chair at 8:40 a.m.

Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board, were:

Sammye Pokryfki, Master Social Worker, Wasilla
Darrell Allman, Clinical Social Worker, Anchorage
Gail La Rose-Henderson, Clinical Social Worker, Wasilla (9:00 am)
Jason Floyd, Baccalaureate Social Worker, Valdez

Board Member Absent:

Mildred Townsend, Public Member

Present from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing was:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Agenda Item 1 Regulations

The Board Chair requested that the Licensing Examiner research old minutes from the previous three years to find out what regulations the Board had previously discussed and what areas were previously considered a problem area.

Sammye Pokryfki stated that, after reading the regulations, she did not find any areas that warrant a change. She noted that the times the Board has had a problem is when the wording of the regulation disagrees with the statute. At the last meeting, the Department of Law made it clear that, in those instances, the statute trumps the regulation. You always go with what the statute says.

Most things are easily dealt with by comparing the wording of the regulation with the statutes. Chair Pokryfki requested that the Board go through the statutes and regulations and, if something is not clear by using this process, then bring it to the next meeting.

There was discussion on the fact that there is a student at UAA who had been convicted of a level of crime so he had been denied a BSW because of his criminal history. If the case had

had a different outcome and UAA had not been able to withhold the degree, the Board would have had to look at his licensing request. A regulation may be needed for it.

The Board discussed the clarification as to what percentage of the hours worked in child protective services would count toward the clinical requirements for Clinical Social Worker licensure. This was from the previous meeting and it was determined that our statutes are clear regarding this question. However, Gail La Rose-Henderson asked for clarity regarding in-service where CEUs are involved. She felt there was nothing that specifically talks about it or precludes it. For instance, how does OCS' paid training when someone first gets hired on, not count as continuing education?

Sammye Pokryfki noted the following regulation as to what has guided the Board in the past:

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

After checking the regulation, you would then go back and look at statute then, which is:

Sec. 08.95.040. Continuing education requirement. (a) The board shall adopt continuing education requirements for persons licensed under this chapter. Continuing education requirements that must be satisfied before the first biennial renewal of a person's license must include a minimum of 45 hours of education or training with a minimum of three hours in professional ethics, six hours in substance abuse, and six hours in cross-cultural education that includes issues relating to Alaska Natives. After the first biennial renewal of a license, continuing education requirements for that person's license renewal must include three hours in professional ethics, six hours in substance abuse, and six hours in cross-cultural education, three hours of which must include issues relating to Alaska Natives.
(b) The board shall appoint three persons licensed under this chapter to serve as a continuing education committee. The committee shall advise the board on matters related to continuing education for social workers. One person appointed to the committee must be familiar with social problems in the rural areas of the state.

There was discussion on orientation vs. training. Sammye Pokryfki noted that the regulation in question was applied in more than one circumstance and the Board has applied it universally to the best of our ability. We can look at it, and if people feel we need to, we can do away with the regulation 12 AAC 18.220. (c).

We need to go back to a clearly stated statute and/or regulation so we do not have to apply subjective criteria. Perhaps the regulations specialist can look at it and find out what the justification for it was.

Supervision of Experience

Darrell Allman discussed the following :

12 AAC 18.115. SUPERVISION OF EXPERIENCE FOR CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK LICENSE. ...

(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.

There was discussion on why the Board would change this regulation. Darrell Allman thought that, rather than having to turn someone down after they got their hours, he would rather they

received an exception before they begin training. He would like to insert "prior to the hours being counted"

The Chair noted that this was clarified before by an assistant attorney general and there was nothing in statute to uphold the change. You cannot put anything in that is more stringent than the statute. Gail La Rose-Henderson did not think that this one thing makes them a better or worse social worker.

Sammye Pokryfki felt it would strengthen the applicant's position. We could word it as an exception needing to be pre-approved.

Task List

The Board members will read the regulations. We will have information from past Board minutes and the Chair and the licensing examiner will go through them to determine previous concerns regarding the regulations.

Next Meeting

Monday, December 4 at 8:30 a.m. for one hour

Chair Sammye Pokryfki will draft the regulations regarding prior board approval.

Questions on Mail Ballot

The Board clarified some questions regarding the applications that had been mailed out for Board voting. The licensing examiner will check with the state of Michigan regarding Knapp's supervisor's license.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved:

Sammye Pokryfki, Chair
Social Work Examiners Board

Date: _____