

**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
December 11, 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, December 11, 2006

Call to Order/Roll Call

The teleconference meeting was called to order by Sammey Pokryfki, Board Chair at 8:30 a.m. Those present, constituting a quorum of the Board, were:

Sammey Pokryfki, Master Social Worker, Wasilla
Darrell Allman, Clinical Social Worker, Anchorage
Gail La Rose-Henderson, Clinical Social Worker, Wasilla
Jason Floyd, Baccalaureate Social Worker, Valdez at 8:35 a.m.

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 Future meetings

The Board discussed where to have the meeting: Anchorage or Juneau. It was a consensus that the meetings held in Juneau were more expensive and, other than invited guests, no one attends.

The cost of having the meeting in Anchorage is less. The next regular meeting is set for Friday, March 9th, 2007, in Anchorage. It will begin at 8:30 a.m.

The Board requested that the licensing examiner send formal invitations to NASW Alaska chapter, Office of Children's Services and UAA Social Work School. They will be asked if they wish to give the Board an update on what they have going on or present any issues or questions to the Board.

Agenda Item 2 CEU Audit

Jason Floyd had originally tabled the CEU audit for Martha Farris in order to discuss how we should consider in-house training vs. CEU designation. He saw similarities with the previous Office of Children's Services' discussions regarding in-house training being the same as on-the-job training. He wanted clarification.

Sammie Pokryfki pointed out that the OCS CEUs previously refused were orientation, not on-the-job training. The questions arose because the regulation was related to new employee orientation, not in-house training. On Ms. Farris' CEUs, she did not see where it was orientation.

Gail La Rose-Henderson noted that the regulation refers to orientation.

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.

Jason Floyd removed his "table" of the CEU audit vote.

Agenda Item 3 Regulation Discussions

Sammie Pokryfki found seven areas in the regulations that have come up in the previous meetings during the last several years. She asked the Board members to independently study these areas, come back to the next teleconference meeting, and determine if the Board wishes to reconsider them.

1. Application denial

12 AAC 18.140. REASONS FOR APPLICATION DENIAL.

(b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a person who has been convicted of a felony crime against a person described in AS 11.41 within the ten years before the date of application, is unfit for licensure under AS 08.95.110, and that person's application for licensure under AS 08.95.110 will be denied.

2. Temporary licensure

This was addressed previously because it was taking so long to obtain a temporary license. It was the official transcripts that were taking so long to receive. The Board has previously given the licensing examiners permission to issue a temporary license using an unofficial transcript. The permanent license still requires an official transcript. The Board never went back and changed the regulation and it is unclear regarding temporary licenses.

3. Limiting CEU by distance education

In the past, the Board had questioned whether to limit the number of distance CEUs to 50% of the required number of CEUs. There is currently no regulation in place.

4. Exam extensions

The centralized regulations give only one year before an applicant must submit an updated application and references if the applicant has not been in contact with the department and two years if they have been in contact with the department. The Board may want to look at this because of the extension requests received.

5. Requiring a pre-approval for plan of supervision.

The Board had been told previously by the Department of Law that there were no statutes supporting pre-approval. Counselors have a specific regulation. (Staff will email the regulation to the Board members.)

6. Job orientation for CEUs

12 AAC 18.220. Approved Continuing Education Activities.....

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

The Board may want to make this more or less stringent.

7. Five year expiration date on examinations.

The Board had questioned whether to place a five-year expiration date on examinations.

8. Background checks

Darrell Allman also added that he would like the Board to look at criminal background checks. During the ASWB's national meeting, this was brought up and they recommended that boards do background checks on all applicants. It falls under "good moral character" and some boards are using fingerprints. Mr. Allman would like the Board to consider adding this to the application process.

There was discussion on whether or not this was the employers' responsibility. It was noted that not all people work for employers or employers who require the check. The cost would be passed on to the applicants.

Darrell Allman will get the information from ASWB out to the Board.

Jason Floyd also felt it would be good common sense to implement it if our mandate is public safety.

The Board requested that the licensing examiner locate the nursing regulations that are related to background checks/fingerprinting and forward them to the Board members.

The Board would like to revisit regulations yearly (during the time that goals and objectives are being worked on) if we do not continue the monthly meetings.

The next teleconference meeting is set for January 22, 2007 at 8:30 a. m.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved:

Sammie Pokryfki, Chair
Social Work Examiners Board

Date: _____