

Approved March 15, 2024



**STATE of OREGON**  
**BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Friday, February 16, 2024**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**  
**3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302**

**Board Members Present:** Stephanie Manriquez, *Public Member, Chair*  
Amy Ashton-Williams, *LCSW, Vice Chair*  
John Fant, *Public Member*  
Mollie Janssen, *LCSW*  
Scott Wilson, *CSWA*  
Paddy Farr, *LCSW*

**Board Counsel Present:** Kyle Martin, *AAG, Oregon Dept. of Justice*

**Staff Members Present:** Ray Miller, *Executive Director*  
Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*  
Mindy Tucker, *Compliance Specialist*  
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*  
Wende Thatcher, *Licensing Compliance Specialist*

**Pubic Present:** Henry O’Keefe, *Vice President of Health Care Policy, Pac/West Lobby Group*  
Paul Cooney, *J.D.*

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**Chair Manriquez** called the Board Meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and provided brief opening remarks.

**2. REVIEW OF AGENDA:**

**Chair Manriquez** asked for review of the draft agenda.

- i. **Ashton-Williams moved to approve and adopt the agenda as amended.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. MINUTES:**

**Chair Manriquez** asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the January 19, 2024 Board meeting:

- i. **Wilson moved to approve the minutes for January 19, 2024 as presented.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTION:**

**Chair Manriquez** introduced new Board member **Paddy Farr**, who is filling one of the Board's LCSW positions. Farr has been an Oregon LCSW for four years and works in community mental health. Farr shared a poem written by Noor Hindi. They are excited to be on the Board during a time of changes around the country, challenges to the ASWB exam, standing up for racial justice, and being a part of the social work community in Oregon.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

[No public comment at this time]

**6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Director Miller** provided an update on the Board's licensing system provider, Thentia. The Board was previously scheduled to begin migration to the updated Thentia Cloud system this month. The project manager that was assigned to the Board's migration is no longer employed by Thentia. A meeting has been scheduled in the first week of March to meet the Board's new project manager. Miller has requested that Thentia provides a timeline and a project plan during this meeting. Miller's experience working with Thentia has improved since taking his position last November. Thentia's responsiveness has substantially increased and their communication has been proactive.

**Director Miller** provided a new Board member update. **Paddy Farr** was confirmed this month, their official term dates are February 16, 2024 through June 30, 2027. Miller is meeting with the Board's Executive Appointments representative, Brandy Hemsley, next week to discuss filling the Board's vacant public member position, as well positions that will become vacant this year. Miller anticipates having a new board member candidate on the agenda for the next Senate confirmation hearing which will be held in April.

**Director Miller** discussed the OHA fee waiver program. The program ended as of January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Director Miller** provided a staffing update. Miller's number one goal is to increase staff to address the current backlog and improve processing times. He has worked with the Board's fiscal office to submit a request to the legislature during the short session to increase the Board's expenditure authority, which would allow the Board to hire two limited duration OS2 positions.

**Director Miller** reviewed licensing statistics. There are currently 6320 LCSWs, 1850 CSWAs, 335 LMSWs, and 33 RBSWs for a total of 8,538 licensees.

**Director Miller** reviewed application statistics. In August 2023 the Board had 219 CSWA applications waiting to be processed, as of today that number has been reduced to 25 applications. The oldest CSWA application awaiting staff review was submitted on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. For all application types, in August 2023 the Board had 425 applications waiting to be processed, there are now 180. The oldest submission date for all application types is December 4, 2023.

**Director Miller** provided an update on HB 4071, previously LC 98. This bill mandates all health professional regulatory boards to issue a temporary authorization to practice to eligible applicants within 10 days of receiving an application for licensure. For that to be possible, the Board would need several additional staff members. Miller and **Chair Manriquez** went before the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care on February 14<sup>th</sup> to provide testimony on the bill.

**Director Miller** discussed the HB 4071-2 amendment which includes a Social Work Licensure Compact. The document is over 30 pages long and was not received with adequate time for Board or DOJ representatives to thoroughly review, make plans for implementation, or ensure there are no potential constitutional conflicts. This short timeline was articulated to the House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care.

**7. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Chair Manriquez** announced that the Board would now enter into Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 162.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)(l). The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:35 a.m. Chair Manriquez moved the Board out of Executive Session at 11:55 a.m.

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Janssen** presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

**In the matter of case 2015-05:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Ashton-Williams seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2016-39:**

- i. **Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to not violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2017-05:**

- i. **Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to not violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Ashton-Williams seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2019-02:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2019-10:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2019-20:**

- i. **Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to not violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2019-43:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**In the matter of case 2022-17:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Ashton-Williams seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed with 5 in favor, Farr abstained.**

**Wilson** provided the Licensing and Examination Committee report, announcing that committee worked on a draft Renewal and CE Matrix and a draft Expired License Practice Matrix. **Coleman** will create documents for the draft matrices to review at the following Board meeting.

**Wilson** provided the Continuing Education Committee report and advised that committee had approved four CE requests from LCSW **Lori Whittaker**, LCSW **Sarah Guest**, and LMSW **Emilie Lamson-Siu** (two requests). The Committee also approved one Study Group request from LCSW **Alycia O'Connell**.

**9. SPECIAL REVIEWS**

Board members reviewed and approved Colorado LCSW **Garrett Pollock's** request to become a Board approved supervisor.

**10. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

[No public comment at this time]

**11. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Director Miller** met with a representative from the Governor's Office to discuss DEI plan framework. They have another meeting scheduled next week to work on details for the DEI plan.

**Director Miller** discussed the Board newsletter. **Chair Manriquez** has worked with Board staff **Thatcher** and **Coleman** to develop language regarding continuing education, renewal, and expiration information for the next newsletter. Chair Manriquez advised Board members to provide any suggestions for newsletter topics they may have.

**Coleman** provided an update on the Six Month Report revision. The revised form was emailed out to all LCSW supervisors as well as CSWAs for feedback. The window for submitting feedback closes on March 1<sup>st</sup>, at which point Coleman will compile the feedback into a useable format for Board review at the following meeting.

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Wilson** presented a proposal for the formation of an advisory committee to explore alternative pathways to licensure. Board members reviewed the proposal and discussed the committee purpose, objectives, and recommendations. **Farr** suggested adding the ASWB report regarding exam pass rates and demographic data to the purpose of the committee. **Miller** recommended having a specific focus for what the committee wants to achieve. **Martin** suggested setting a timeframe for the committee to make its recommendations. The Board discussed the committee composition consisting of five individuals, including one Board member, three members of the public, and one member from either the Board or the public. **Miller** will contact DAS regarding public member eligibility to receive per diem for committee meetings. **Martin** recommended creating a final document for the Board to adopt that includes all of the specifications and requirements for the committee. **Wilson** will amend their document to include all of the Board's recommendations and present it at the following Board meeting. Wilson would like to see someone from NASW and an

educational institution on the committee. **Farr** would like to ensure there is BIPOC representation on the committee. Board members discussed the name of the committee being Pathway Alternatives to Licensure (PAL).

**13. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- i. **Fant moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**
- ii. **Janssen seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**14. CORRESPONDENCE:**

[No correspondence at this time]

**15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Henry O’Keefe** provided a report on behalf of NASW in his capacity as a lobbyist. O’Keefe discussed HB 4071 and the Social Work Licensure Compact, and provided a timeline of activity leading up to the bill.

**Chair Manriquez** gave an ASWB update provided by previous Board member Brenda Dennis. ASWB has changed its test vendor from Pearson VUE to PSI. ASWB expects that PSI will be able to offer in-home options to test takers in late 2024. The next ASWB New Board Member trainings will be held March 21-23, 2024 in San Antonio, TX; June 13-14, 2024 online; and October 4-5, 2024 in the metro DC area. ASWB is launching a Social Work Census from March 1-31, 2024. ASWB will hold an Administrators Forum and Board Member Exchange on May 2, 2024, with the Education Meeting following on May 3-4, 2024 in Arlington, VA. ASWB continues to work with the Council on State Governments to provide information on the Interstate Compact. The Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly will be held November 7-9, 2024 in San Diego, CA.

**Ashton-Williams** has been appointed to the ASWB Research Committee. This committee assesses regulatory research needs and reviews published research.

**16. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Chair Manriquez** adjourned the Board meeting at 2:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*