



STATE of OREGON
BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
Board Meeting
Friday, March 15, 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*
Troy Clinton, *Investigator*
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*

Pubic Present: Henry O’Keefe, *Vice President of Health Care Policy, Pac/West Lobby Group*
MaryMichelle Sosne, *Legislative Fiscal Analyst*
Delmar Stone, *Executive Director, NASW OR Chapter*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Manriquez called the Board Meeting to order at 11:00 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 presented.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. MINUTES:

Chair Manriquez asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the February 16, 2024 Board meeting:

- i. **Wilson moved to approve the minutes for February 16, 2024 as presented.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

[No public comment at this time]

5. 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 11:05 a.m. Chair Manriquez moved the Board out of Executive Session at 11:49 a.m.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Director Miller provided an update on the Interstate Compact. Legislation for the Interstate Compact did not pass in the short session. This will provide extra time for the Board to discuss how it wants to move forward with the Interstate Compact before legislation is introduced again in the next session.

Director Miller updated the Board on HB4071. Session was adjourned with the bill still in Ways and Means so the bill is dead.

Director Miller informed Board members that HB 4023 did not pass. The bill would have required the Board to issue a license within 10 days of receiving an application.

Director Miller reported that Thentia has been proactive about providing updates on the system upgrade as well as responding to open tickets for the current system. At this point there is no set date for the new system migration.

Director Miller provided a new Board member update. Miller hopes to have additional information regarding a new public member by the next Board meeting.

Director Miller provided a staffing update. Miller submitted a request to the legislature for an expenditure increase which would allow the Board to apply funds currently coming toward hiring additional staff. The request passed in an omnibus bill. Enough funding has been authorized to support two limited duration 1.0 FTE Office Specialist 2 positions. Miller will be working with HR to post job announcements in the coming weeks.

Director Miller reviewed applicant statistics. There are currently 10 CSWA applications waiting to be reviewed by staff, the oldest application was submitted 18 days ago. Miller has directed the licensing team to keep CSWA applications within the 30-day range, this timeframe will free up some staff time to address other licensing tasks. For all application types, there are a total of 46 applications waiting to be reviewed, with the oldest application submitted 46 days ago. Staff will keep all application types besides CSWAs within the 60-day range going forward.

Director Miller reviewed licensing statistics. There are currently 6410 LCSWs, 1925 CSWAs, 340 LMSWs, and 33 RBSWs for a total of 8,708 regulated social workers.

Director Miller discussed the need for a fee increase. The Board hasn't had a fee increase in at least 10 years. Miller is looking at a fee increase of around 10% across based on current spending plus funding for additional staff and IT infrastructure.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Janssen presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

In the matter of case 2016-19:

- 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 2017-04:

- 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 2017-25:

- 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 2018-29:

- 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 2019-06:

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

In the matter of case 2022-05:

- 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 2023-53:

- 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.

Wilson provided the Continuing Education Committee report and advised that committee had approved three CE requests from LCSWs **Kathleen McNamara**, **Miya Abbott**, and **Sarah Guest**. The Committee also discussed the difference between “approved” and “sponsored” when listed on a CE completion certificate.

Wilson provided the Licensing and Examination Committee report, announcing that committee approved one Previous Hours request for LCSW applicant **Gregory Oberg**. The Committee also discussed the recurrence of CSWAs changing Plans of Supervision without first submitting requests to the Board, and continuing to practice. The Committee examined the Board’s rules pertaining to CSWA Plans of Supervision requirements and discussed the possibility of adding language to the

rules that would allow for exceptions or flexibility. **Janssen** suggested implementing a matrix for these instances. **Miller** discussed adding automatic reminders through Thentia when a supervision plan is pending supervisor approval.

8. SPECIAL REVIEWS

[No special reviews at this time]

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Delmar Stone informed the Board that Utah just passed Interstate Compact legislation. Missouri, Arizona, and South Dakota have already passed legislation. Virginia, Iowa, Maine, and Massachusetts are coming soon. Seven states need to join for the Compact to go forward and establish a commission. Stone announced the NASW OR Chapter will be holding a Town Hall Meeting via Zoom on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 9:00 am. Anyone is welcome to join, a mass email will be sent out via email. The NASW Oregon Chapter is supportive of alternative pathways to licensure. Wisconsin, North Dakota, and Minnesota are making headway on alternative licensure. Idaho implemented authorization for any social worker to practice in the state of Idaho virtually. The NASW Oregon Chapter would like to form a workgroup on alternative licensing with the BLSW. **Wilson** informed Stone that the Board was currently forming a committee to explore alternative pathways to licensure.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

Director Miller is part of a DEI cohort of the Governor's Office and is collaborating with other health licensing boards to structure the Board's DEI plan. Miller anticipates having additional updates at the next Board meeting. The full DEI plan is required to be completed in June 2024.

Director Miller requested review of the current newsletter before it is posted on the Board website.

Coleman provided an update on the Six Month Report revision. The feedback received from LCSW supervisors and CSWAs has been compiled. **Janssen, Ashton-Williams** and previous Board member **Kathy Outland** will review the feedback and provide their recommendations.

Wilson discussed creating a new committee to explore alternative pathways to licensure.

- i. **Wilson moved to approve and establish the Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee under the Charter as presented.**
- ii. **Farr seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- i. **Wilson moved to appoint Paddy Farr as the Chair of the Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Board members discussed allowing LMFTs and LPCs to provide up to half of a CSWA's supervision. The Joint Rules and Legislative Committee will review the Board's rules and provide their recommendation. **Ashton-Williams, Wilson, and Manriquez** agreed to be members of the committee.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

[No special reviews at this time]

12. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

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

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair Manriquez reminded Board members to forward any correspondence received to Director Miller.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Manriquez recommended that new Board members register for ASWB's New Board Member Training and Director Miller registers for ASWB's Executive Leadership Training.

Chair Manriquez encouraged Board members to participate in ASWB's Social Work Census.

Chair Manriquez announced the Board will not meet in April. The next meeting will be held May 17, 2024.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Manriquez adjourned the Board meeting at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*

Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee Charter

Established: The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers (Board) hereby establishes a new Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee (Committee) to explore alternative pathways for social work licensure in Oregon. The Committee's existence continues at the pleasure of the Board.

Purpose and Mission: Considering the evolving landscape of social work education and practice and recent information regarding pass rates of the ASWB exam, it is prudent for the Board to consider whether alternative pathways may better serve the needs of aspiring social workers while maintaining the high standards of the profession. This Committee's mission is to research, identify, analyze, and recommend to the Board about alternative pathways to licensure, including thoroughly examining potential options, gathering relevant data, engaging with stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and informed decision-making process, and reporting findings and recommendations to the Board. The initiative for this Committee aligns with the Board's mission and the values of the social work profession by ensuring that individuals entering the field of social work have equitable opportunities to obtain licensure while upholding the highest standards of professional competence and ethical practice for protection of the citizens of Oregon.

Objectives, Charge, and Authority:

- 1) Researching alternative pathways to social work licensure implemented in other states or jurisdictions.
- 2) Soliciting input from stakeholders, including social work educators, practitioners, students, advocacy groups, and regulatory bodies, to understand their perspectives, concerns, and lived experiences regarding alternative pathways to licensure.
- 3) Assessing the strengths and weaknesses of various alternative pathways to licensure.
- 4) Analyzing the potential impact of alternative pathways on the diversity, equity, and inclusion within the social work profession, particularly in addressing barriers to licensure for underrepresented populations
- 5) Developing and reporting recommendations to the Board on alternative pathways for social work licensure in Oregon based on the findings of the Committee.
- 6) The committee shall provide process reports to the Board as requested by the Board.
- 7) The committee shall meet deadlines as set by the Board.

Composition: The Committee is composed of five members appointed as follows:

- 1 member of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers that Chairs the Committee and is appointed by the Board.
- 1 member of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers OR member of the public appointed by the Chair.
- 3 members of the public appointed by the Chair.
- Committee members serve at the pleasure of the Board.

Committee Operations:

- The Committee shall meet at such times, place, and frequency as the Committee or Chair determines necessary to accomplish its work.
- Meetings shall be conducted in compliance with Oregon Public Meetings Law.
- The Chair shall set the agenda and have the authority to conduct and control the meetings.
- Committee actions and decisions must be made by a quorum of the members of the Committee. A "quorum" is a simple majority of members of the Committee.
- Board staff shall provide support for Committee operations, including clerical and administrative support.