

THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
Friday, February 20, 2015

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 9:31 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2015 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Jennifer Blosser, Chair called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jennifer Blosser
Maria Eugenia del Villar
Dolores Paulson
John Salay
Nettie Simon-Owens
Joseph Walsh
Bernadette Winters

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Yvonne Haynes
Kristi Wooten

DHP STAFF PRESENT: Catherine Chappell, Executive Director
Sarah Georgen, Licensing Manager
Charles Giles, Budget Manager
Jaime Hoyle, DHP Chief Deputy Director
Jennifer Lang, Deputy Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

BOARD COUNSEL: James Rutkowski, Assistant Attorney General

ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM: With seven members of the Board present, a quorum was established.

MISSION STATEMENT: Ms. Blosser read the mission statement of the Department of Health Professions, which was also the mission statement of the Board.

ORDERING OF AGENDA: Ms. Chappell requested that the agenda be amended to reflect that Ms. Hoyle would present the Director's Report in Dr. Brown's absence. The agenda was accepted as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a motion by Dr. Simon-Owens, which was properly seconded by Dr. Winters, the meeting minutes from December 5, 2014 were approved as amended. Mr. Salay abstained.

**CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Ms. Hoyle announced that an audit had commenced for the Health Practitioners' Monitoring Program (HPMP). She noted that file review would take place in March 2015 regarding the Boards of Medicine and Nursing and she would provide the results at the summer 2015 board meeting.

**REGULATORY/LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE:**

Ms. Yeatts offered an update on activity at the 2015 General Assembly. She stated that the 13 Agency bills had been approved by the General Assembly and that she had been following 88 other bills which were assigned to the Department of Health Professions for summaries and responses. Ms. Yeatts provided a detail of the bills that may be of interest to the Board.

Ms. Yeatts stated that the regulations contemplating fee increases, as discussed at the last Board meeting, were ready for final adoption. She referenced public comment that had been received in that regard. She stated that the last fee increase by the Board of Social Work was in 1998, and commented that there had been a one-time fee reduction in 2003. She noted that the pending request for fee increase had originally been discussed in 2009, based upon projected income and expenses.

Mr. Giles, Budget Manager for the Agency, offered information regarding revenue and expense projections. The Board members discussed their concerns regarding the fee increases with Ms. Yeatts and Mr. Giles and it was determined that the increases were appropriate at this time to meet anticipated needs.

Dr. Simon-Owens moved to adopt the final regulations as presented by Ms. Yeatts. The motion was properly seconded by Dr. Paulson and carried.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
REPORT:**

Ms. Chappell thanked the board members for their time and service to the Board. She noted that two Board members' seats were due to expire on June 30, 2015, and reminded the Board that members must apply for reappointment.

Ms. Chappell thanked Ms. Georgen for the organization of the Board meeting and noted that she continued to manage the Board's day-to-day operations, which included meeting customer service needs.

Ms. Chappell offered an overview of staff changes since the last Board meeting. Ms. Chappell welcomed new Deputy Executive Director Jennifer Lang, and advised that Ms. Lang had received a competitive promotion, having previously served as the Licensing Manager for the Board of Counseling. She commented that Ms. Lang brought energy, creativity, knowledge, and organizational skills which would make her team successful. Recruitment efforts for Ms. Lang's former position were underway, and in the meantime, Charlotte Lenart, who had been providing licensing services for the Board of Social Work, had been temporarily assigned to the Board of Counseling.

Ms. Chappell stated that since the last Board meeting, she had spoken to stakeholders on behalf of the Board which included graduate students at Catholic University in Washington, D.C, which was sponsored by the Greater Washington Society for Clinical Social Work; the Charlottesville chapter of the Virginia Society for Clinical Social Work (VSCSW); distance and day students in the graduate program at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work; and undergraduate and graduate social work students in attendance at a Day at the Capitol event, sponsored by NASW-VA. She noted that she was scheduled to present to the Tidewater Chapter of the VSCSW, Virginia Chapter of NABSW and the NASW-VA annual meeting in the next couple of months.

With respect to her participation at the Catholic University event, Ms. Chappell commented that she was able to engage with representatives from the Washington, DC (DC) and Maryland social work boards which provided an excellent opportunity for her to compare and contrast licensure requirements between the three jurisdictions. The students had many questions about the LGSW license offered in DC and Maryland, which seemed to be a requirement for individuals under supervision. She noted that this information might be helpful to the Regulatory Committee in their ongoing discussion as to whether there was a need for mid-level licensure in Virginia.

Additionally, the board members expressed interest in Ms. Chappell's plans to meet with the Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers and several indicated that they would like to attend the presentation. There had been no board outreach to this organization in many years.

Ms. Chappell referenced the financial analysis for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014, which was included in the agenda

packet and commented that the board would continue to be transparent in its financial status.

Ms. Chappell announced that Ms. del Villar and Ms. Lang were scheduled to attend New Board Member training through the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) in March. Ms. Chappell noted that travel expenses for these meetings were fully funded by the ASWB, but must be preapproved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services offices due to state travel requirements. She encouraged board members who had not yet obtained the ASWB training to contact her for more information.

**DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. Lang introduced herself and provided a description of her work experiences which prepared her for her new role.

In an effort to aid the board members in their understanding of the probable cause review process, Ms. Lang presented the updated probable cause review form used in disciplinary case reviews. She thanked the board members who had helped with the reviews in the past and encouraged others who may be interested in participating in this responsibility in the future.

Ms. Lang noted that the Board of Social Work had 127 disciplinary files in process. She stated that 30 files were being investigated by the Enforcement Division and 57 needed review for probable cause or were in the process of being scheduled for a conference or hearing. She stated that two formal hearings were scheduled to immediately follow the Board meeting and two were scheduled to follow the April Board meeting. She reported that eight cases were being monitored for compliance in accordance with Board orders.

Ms. Lang stated that the Board had noted an increase in unlicensed practice cases and that she was working with the Executive Director, Board Counsel, the Agency's Enforcement Division and the Administrative Proceedings Division to develop policies to address this trend. This matter was anticipated to be discussed with the board, at the next Regulatory Committee meeting.

**LICENSING MANAGER'S
REPORT:**

Ms. Georgen provided an update on the total licensees currently regulated by the Board, including supervisees in social work.

Ms. Georgen noted that the Board continues to receive incomplete applications which have resulted in a high number of applications awaiting administrative and credentials review.

Ms. Georgen noted that the applicant satisfaction survey results for the quarter ending December 31, 2014 remained at 92%.

Ms. Georgen reported that Charlotte Lenart, Licensing Specialist had been temporarily assigned to the Board of Counseling to assist them with the high volume of calls and applications. Ms. Georgen thanked Ms. Lenart for her hard work and dedication to the Board of Social Work over the past four years.

**REGULATORY COMMITTEE
REPORT:**

Dr. Winters remarked that the Regulatory Committee had not met since January 2013; therefore, she proposed an organizational meeting with the Committee members. After a brief discussion regarding proposed dates, Ms. Georgen indicated that she would follow-up with the Committee members regarding possible dates following the Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

Jennifer Blosser, Chair

Catherine Chappell, Executive Director

Date

Date