

APPROVED

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2004**

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 14, 2004 at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. Sharon Ekleberry, Chair, called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharon C. Ekleberry
George Offerman
Valerie Carter-Williams
Anne Keast
Fredrick D. Weston

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Nandini N. Assar

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Gail Jaspen, Chief Deputy Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Benjamin Foster, Deputy Executive Director
Arnice N. Covington, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Debra Riggs, National Association of Social Workers

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Ms. Ekleberry opened the floor to any changes in the agenda order. The agenda was accepted as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Ekleberry opened the floor to comment from the public. There was none.

APPROVAL OF MAY 14, 2004 MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Weston and properly seconded to accept the minutes of February 20, 2004. The motion carried.

REPORTS:

Chair's Report – Sharon Ekleberry

Ms. Ekleberry opened a general discussion regarding the need to start a periodic review of the regulations. Following discussion Mr. Weston made a motion and it was properly seconded to begin the review. Ms. Ekleberry and Mr. Weston will meet on June 10, 2004 to start the review. At a later date an Ad Hoc Committee will meet to begin the process of reviewing current regulations for possible amendments and/or additions.

REPORTS

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Brown advised that she had a Consent Order to be reviewed with the Board. Ms. Carter-Williams moved that the Board convene in Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2.3711(A)(28) of the *Code of Virginia* for the purpose of deliberation to reach a decision in the matter of the Consent Order signed by PATRICIA WILLIAMS, LCSW.

Following discussion Ms. Carter-Williams read the certification of the Closed Meeting. "All those who certify, to the best of your knowledge, that the Board heard, discussed or considered only those public matters lawfully exempted from Open Meeting requirements by Virginia law and those matters as were identified in the motion for the Closed Meeting, say "Aye." All Board members said, "Aye."

A motion was made by Ms. Carter-Williams and properly seconded to accept the Consent Order with an addition to the wording of the Order to clearly state that Ms. Williams' license is suspended. The Consent Order accepts the VOLUNTARY SURRENDER for suspension of Ms. Williams' license in lieu of further proceedings. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Brown advised the Board that the Newsletter would be complete and mailed shortly. The Newsletter will be put on the website as soon as it is available.

Adoption of Emergency Regulations for Delegation to an Agency Subordinate – Elaine Yeatts

Ms. Yeatts discussed HB 319; 358 (FOIA); 577; and 875

Following discussion a motion was made by Mr. Weston and properly seconded to adopt emergency regulations and Notice of Intent to promulgate permanent regulations relating to delegation of informal fact-finding to an agency subordinate. The Board accepted the staff draft regulations with amendments to subsection B to read: "Cases that may not be delegated to an agency subordinate include violations of Standards of Practice as set out in 18 VAC 140-20-150, except as otherwise may be determined by the probably cause committee in consultation with the Board Chair."

Discipline Committee – Sharon Ekleberry

Sharon Ekleberry reported that the Board currently has 10 complaints in Investigation, six cases as Board level, and two cases have been returned to Investigations for additional information. The Discipline Committee held two informal conferences since the February 20, 2004 Board meeting. There are 18 continued competency cases pending.

Regulatory Committee – Valerie Carter-Williams

The Regulatory Committee met April 6, 2004. Those in attendance were Mr. Foster, Ms. Carter-Williams, and Ms. Keast. Ms. Riggs from NASW also attended the meeting.

Ms. Carter-Williams reviewed proposed changes recommended by the Committee. Ms. Carter-Williams noted that the recommended changes would allow BSW and MSW graduates to sit for the licensure examinations prior to completing the supervision/experience requirements.

Following discussion a motion was made by Mr. Offerman and properly seconded to accept in principle the proposed regulatory changes. Mr. Offerman further moved to issue the notice(Pre-NOIRA) to start the regulatory review process.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Foster reviewed possible disciplinary actions regarding continued competency requirements. Following review a motion was made by Mr. Weston and properly seconded to accept the Possible Disciplinary Actions. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Foster presented a recent request regarding approval for continuing education hours for Spanish coursework. The licensee indicated that the workplace in the area of employment has a large Spanish-speaking population and the population would be better served if employees were able to communicate in Spanish. Following discussion it was suggested that Staff notify the licensee that currently approval would not be offered for learning to speak Spanish. Further staff is to advise the licensee that a regulatory review will be commenced soon and the issue will be discussed at that time.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board and the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Sharon Ekleberry, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director