

APPROVED
SUMMARY

HOUSE BILL 1146 COMMITTEE MEETING
THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 2007

The House Bill 1146 Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") convened at 10:10 a.m. on Friday, March 16, 2007 at the Department of Health Professions, 6603 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia. David Boehm, Chair, called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

David R. Boehm, Board Member
Charles R. Chambers, Jr., Board Member
Dolores S. Paulson, Board Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Arnice N. Covington, Administrative Assistant

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Donna DeAngelis
Leslie Herdegen
Lynette Isbell
Karen Ford
Alice Kassabian
Paul McWhinney
Mark O'Shea
Debra Riggs
Susan C. Ward

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT: Frank R. Baskind

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Kernan-Stern
Phyllis Parrish

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Mr. Boehm opened the floor to any changes in the Order of the Agenda. The Agenda was accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Boehm opened the floor to comment from the public.

Mary Kiernan-Stern, George Mason University, attended for Frank Baskind. Phyllis Parrish, Virginia Department of Social Services, attended for Lynette Isbell.

Chair's Overview of Process and Progress of HB 1146 Study and Comments from Members on Current Process - David Boehm

Mr. Boehm, Chair of the Board of Social Work, gave an update from the previous meetings regarding the status of the business of the Committee. He emphasized that the Committee is defining "people" and not functions.

Discussion of Subcommittee Members' Position Papers

Mr. Boehm suggested taking 15 minutes for all attendees to review the position papers that were not available to be included in the Board package. Discussion followed.

Presentation ASWB – Donna DeAngelis, Executive Director

Ms. DeAngelis summarized concerns supported by many members in attendance in that the exemptions currently in place in Virginia law have allowed untrained people to work in public agencies, private agencies and hospitals, where they call themselves "social workers" and provide social work services. If a client in one of these settings has a complaint against a person calling themselves a social worker it can be filed with the agency or hospital, but there is no oversight to assure that the complaint is adequately addressed.

Discussion of Current Exemptions

All attendees commented regarding the current exemptions and how their agency would be affected. Following discussion Mr. Boehm asked for a comment from each attendee to determine if the majority were in favor of "Title Protection." Attendees voiced opinions as follows:

Donna DeAngelis – Yes
Leslie Herdegen - Yes
Phyllis Parrish attending for DSS - Probably
Alice Kassabian - Yes
Paul McWhinney – Deferred
Mark O'Shea - Yes
Debra Riggs – Yes
Susan C. Ward – Deferred
Karen Ford – Yes

The majority of those attending were in favor of "Title Protection."

Following discussion from attendees Mr. Boehm advised the Committee that he would make a presentation to the Board regarding the discussions of the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

David Boehm, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director