

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES - FINAL
FRIDAY, JANUARY 21, 2011**

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 9:05 a.m. on Friday, January 21, 2011 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Wayne Martin, Chair, called the meeting to order. Mr. Martin welcomed Dr. Jim Hinterlong, Dean of the VCU School of Social Work and Valerie Carter-Williams, LCSW, contracted credentials reviewer for the Board, and thanked them for their participation in the meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David Boehm
Charles R. Chambers, Jr.
Willie T. Greene, Sr.
Yvonne Haynes
Susan Horne-Quatannens
Wayne A. Martin
Arthur Mayer
Catherine L. Moore

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Patricia Smith-Solan

STAFF PRESENT: Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Patricia Larimer, Deputy Executive Director – Discipline
Catherine Chappell, Deputy Executive Director – Licensing
Sarah Georgen, Administrative Assistant
Arne Owens, DHP Chief Deputy Director

ORDERING OF AGENDA:

Ms. Horne-Quatannens requested that discussion of HB2037 and proposed changes to the clinical track in graduate studies accredited by the Counseling on Social Work Education (CSWE) be added to New Business. The Agenda was accepted as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maurice Fisher, LCSW, president-elect NASW-VA remarked that several applicants for social work licensure had voiced concern about difficulties encountered during the application process.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Boehm moved that the minutes of the October 15, 2010 Board meeting be approved as written. Ms. Horne-Quatannens opined that the draft minutes did not contain sufficient background information about regulatory action taken by the Regulatory Committee at the October 2010 meeting. Ms. Brown stated that the draft October 15th

board meeting minutes reflect the actions taken at that board meeting. Detail on regulatory action considered and taken by the Regulatory Committee is included in the minutes from the October 15, 2010 Regulatory Committee meeting.

CHIEF DEPUTY'S REPORT

Mr. Owens stated that the Department of Health Professions (the Agency) was actively working to advance five (5) bills in the General Assembly. The Agency has been asked to comment on approximately forty bills that were currently in the General Assembly relating to the Agency.

With respect to HB2037, Mr. Martin inquired as to the role that the Board could have in commenting on legislation. Mr. Owens remarked that the Board was an essential part of the process and that although the Governor did not yet have a position on HB2037, the Board could make a recommendation on the legislation.

The Board members agreed that HB2037 appeared to be an outgrowth of HB1146 in which the Board had previously been instructed to study and draft recommendations regarding title protection. Further discussion of the bill was deferred to New Business.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Issues. Ms. Brown introduced Sarah Georgen and Jennifer Lang as the new administrative assistants for the Board of Social Work and the Board of Counseling, respectively. She stated that the Behavioral Science administrative assistants are "generalists" because they provide administrative support for licensing activities, board functions, and disciplinary matters.

Supervision Contracts. Ms. Brown commented that because of the recent challenges in evaluating registration of supervision contracts and licensure applications, the Credentials Committee would meet following the Board meeting. She noted that employment opportunities for LCSW supervisees appear to have diminished. In her recent conversation with Donna DeAngelis, Executive Director of ASWB, Ms. Brown learned that a decrease in supervision opportunities is reported by other social work boards as well as the Virginia Board. LCSW's previously employed in private settings, or who had retired, are returning to work in positions traditionally held by LCSW supervisees. As such, many LCSW supervisees are attempting to register supervision contracts to work in settings which do not appear to require the clinical experience needed for licensure. Therefore, Registration of Supervision contracts require increased scrutiny of the job descriptions and have resulted in delays pending requests for additional information from supervisees before decisions can be made by the Credentials Reviewers. Consequently, applicants are expressing frustration about the processing delays which affect their employment.

Ms. Brown recognized Valerie Carter-Williams, LCSW, former chair of the Board, who is a contracted credentials reviewer for the Board who agreed to attend the Credentials

Committee meeting immediately following the Board meeting to assist in the discussion related to these issues.

ASWB ANNUAL MEETING

Mr. Boehm advised that he had attended the recent ASWB Annual Membership meeting in New Orleans. The ASWB provided funding for one board member to attend the annual meeting. Mr. Boehm commented that there had been a recent change in the model social work law regarding “independent” practice, as opposed to “private” practice. Independent practice would be defined as nonclinical practice at an agency level and designated as LMSW.

Mr. Boehm suggested that the Regulatory Committee study the possible addition of an “LMSW” licensure level to be implemented in the future. Ms. Brown noted that such an addition to the licenses currently offered in Virginia would require a legislative change.

Mr. Boehm also noted that model ASWB language relating to supervisor accountability had been revised. He suggested that the Credentials Committee review this information to clarify which supervisee duties require supervision and to clarify supervisor responsibilities.

Furthermore, he added that a new clinical examination had been implemented in January, to include sections on diagnosing, psychotherapy and ethics. Along with the new examination, the administration of the examination had been changed to provide for different testing centers and improved security measures, including videotaping.

BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dr. Elizabeth Carter, Executive Director for the Board of Health Professions (BHP), thanked Ms. Haynes and Mr. Boehm for their participation on the BHP. She stated that the BHP continues to study regulation of genetic counselors, licensed clinical laboratory scientist/technicians, and phlebotomists.

She announced that the Health Care Work Force Data Center received a grant in the amount of \$9.3 million and that development of surveys had been initiated to gather data through online renewals. Due to the critical need for mental health services for the military as identified by the Wounded Warrior Program as well as the increased need for services relating to depression and suicide for younger people in rural areas, the survey for behavioral science practitioners would be implemented for the June 2011 renewals in order to understand and anticipate future behavioral health needs.

DR. JIM HINTERLONG, DEAN, VCU SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Dr. Hinterlong reiterated the School of Social Work’s commitment to the Board’s goals and mission. He suggested that an educational summit be considered to continue the dialogue between Virginia graduate schools, the Board, and the professional associations

with respect to the perceived growing disparity as viewed in the priorities in the classroom and what practitioners are doing in the field.

Ms. Horne-Quatannens expressed her concern about the clinical track disappearing from the CSWE graduate programs and being replaced by the advanced practice curriculum, and requested that the topic be included in the summit discussions. Dr. Hinterlong offered to facilitate such a meeting in the near future.

The Board designated Evelyn Brown, Catherine Chappell, Charles Chambers, Yvonne Haynes, David Boehm and Catherine Moore to attend the educational summit.

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Boehm provided an updated on proposed regulations:

1. With respect to the proposed regulations relating to “clinical course of study”, he stated that the Governor had approved the proposed language change.
2. Proposed amendments relating to acceptance of the examination if taken within five years of application, clarification of active practice with respect to endorsement applications, and reinstatements were still under review. A public hearing on the amendments had not been scheduled yet.
3. Proposed amendments to change the renewal period to an annual renewal and an increase in fees was still under consideration by the Department of Planning and Budget.

Mr. Boehm requested that the Regulatory Committee review the addition of a designation of LMSW as another category for licensure, as an LMSW license would increase the value of the LCSW license in the private setting.

Mr. Boehm asked that a representative from the ASWB be invited to a future Regulatory Committee meeting.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Larimer reported that no informal conferences had been held since the last board meeting. Twelve (12) cases continue under investigation by the Enforcement Division, with nine (9) cases at the board level to be reviewed for probable cause. Five cases are to be scheduled for informal conferences. She requested availability of board members able to serve on the panel.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

Ms. Moore stated that the Credentials Committee would meet immediately following the Board meeting to review applications and, with respect to Registrations of Supervision, to determine if the proposed work settings meet the supervised experience requirements.

NEW BUSINESS

HB2037 Title Protection Legislation: Mr. Boehm moved that the Board support the intent of HB2037 title protection. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chambers and passed by the Board. The Board agreed that the wording of the bill needed to be consistent with law. Mr. Owens advised that he would provide the motion to the Secretary, who would advise the Governor.

CSWE Clinical Track. Ms. Horne-Quatannens' concerns regarding the advanced practice curriculum replacing the clinical track would be included in the upcoming educational summit.

Correspondence from Debra Riggs, NASW Executive Director. The Board considered Ms. Riggs concerns regarding the clinical supervised setting. Ms. Riggs stated that the NASW would like to participate in the educational summit.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Martin stated that the next board meeting was scheduled for April 15, 2011, with the Regulatory Committee to meet the afternoon before, on April 14, 2011.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55a.m.



Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director



Wayne Martin, LCSW