

MINUTES

**UTAH
SOCIAL WORKER LICENSING BOARD
MEETING**

December 3, 2009

**Room 474, 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber M. Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

CONVENED: 9:12 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 1:48 P.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:
Board Members Present:

Richard J. Oborn
Lee Avery

Tammer M. Attallah, Chairperson
Mark de St. Aubin
Jean V. McAfee
Dennis R. Frandsen
Tanya Nagahiro
Kathy Searle

Board Members Excused

Evan C. Coats

DOPL Staff Present:

Ronda Trujillo, Compliance Specialist

Guests Present:

Jeff Titus

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 5, 2009 Board meeting. Mr. Frandsen motioned to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Mr. de St. Aubin. The motion carried unanimously.

COMPLIANCE REPORT:

Ronda Trujillo, Compliance Specialist

#1. Mr. James Stringham is in compliance with his stipulation. The Division received the quarterly report from his supervisor Chris Robertson; however, the latest reports do not provide sufficient information.

Discussion:

The Board briefly reviewed his stipulation noting the areas the supervisor needs to cover in the report. Mr. Stringham has completed all other areas of his

stipulation.

#2. Ms. Andrea Morris' probation with the Board was vacated. Ms. Morris was issued a public reprimand.

Discussion:

Mr. Oborn stated that additional information came to the Division's attention after Ms. Morris' stipulation had been signed. The Division vacated the prior stipulation and order and replaced it with a public reprimand.

#3. Ms. Anntionette Titus is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received a positive employer report from Pam Gramse and a positive supervisor report from K.C. Benn. The Division received positive therapy reports from Karen Logan.

#4. Mr. William Green is in compliance with his stipulation. The Division received a quarterly therapy report from Paul Peterson and a positive quarterly supervisor report from Will Dredge. Mr. Green resigned from Steps Recovery on or about September 21, 2009.

#5. Ms. Theresa Schubach is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division has not received quarterly therapy report from Margaret Morris that was due November 20, 2009. (This report was later found). The Board needs to ask how many hours she is working. The last two supervisor reports indicate she is working fifteen hours per week. Her stipulation indicates she should be working forty hours per week. Her supervisor reports from Molly Prince are current and positive.

Preliminary review of discussion items:

Mr. Oborn reviewed the discussion items with the Board.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mr. James Stringham, probation interview

Mr. Stringham met with the Board for his probation interview. The new Board members introduced themselves. Mr. Stringham stated that things are

going well. He continues doing the reviews and supervision as required by his stipulation. The Board advised Mr. Stringham that his supervisor, Chris Robertson, is not including details in his reports. The Board asked Mr. Stringham to have Mr. Robertson include more information in his reports to the Board. Mr. Stringham stated that Mr. Robertson continues choosing files for their review. Mr. Stringham stated that the malpractice lawsuit was completed through mediation and is now resolved. The Board asked to see Mr. Stringham on March 4, 2010. **Mr. Stringham is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Ms. Andrea L. Morris, probation interview

Ms. Morris' probation with the Board has been vacated. Ms. Morris was issued a public reprimand.

Ms. Anntionette Titus, probation interview

Ms. Titus met with the Board for her probation interview. Ms. McAfee conducted the interview. The new Board members introduced themselves. The Board reviewed the positive report and letter from her supervisor, Mr. Benn, recommending that Ms. Titus' reports and meeting with the Board be moved to quarterly. The Board reviewed the positive employer report from Pam Gramse. After a brief discussion, Mr. Frandsen motioned to move Ms. Titus' reports and meetings with the Board to quarterly, seconded by Ms. Nagahiro. The motion carried unanimously. The Board noted that her next reports are due February 20, 2010. The Board asked to see Ms. Titus on March 4, 2010. **Ms. Titus is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Mr. William Green, probation interview

Mr. Green met with the Board for his probation interview. Mr. de St. Aubin conducted the interview. The new Board members introduced themselves. Mr. Green advised the Board that he resigned from Steps Recovery in September 2009. Mr. Green stated that he continues seeing Mr. Will Dredge, his supervisor. Mr. Dredge continues choosing the files and clients for review. Mr. Green stated that his private practice has expanded to approximately thirty (30) hours a week. The Board asked Mr. Green to advise the Board if there are any changes in his employment. The Board asked to see Mr. Green on March 4, 2010. **Mr. Green is in compliance with this stipulation.**

Ms. Theresa Schubach, probation interview

Ms. Schubach met with the Board for her probation interview. Mr. Frandsen conducted the interview. Ms. Schubach advised the Board that things are going well. She is enjoying her work. The Board advised Ms. Schubach that her therapy report has not been received. The Board encouraged Ms. Schubach contact Ms. Trujillo a few days before the Board meeting to ensure that the reports are received. Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to close the meeting at 11:25 A.M. to discuss Ms. Schubach's mental health. There were no written notes or recording taken during this time. The Board meeting opened at 11:35 A.M. The Board reminded Ms. Schubach to advise Ms. Trujillo if her hours increase. Ms. Schubach inquired about early termination of her probation. The Board advised Ms. Schubach that she could request early termination of her probation. In addition, receiving a recommendation from her supervisor and therapist would be helpful to the Board when considering whether to release someone early from probation. The Board asked to see Ms. Schubach on March 4, 2010. **Ms. Schubach is in compliance with her stipulation.** **NOTE*** The therapy report from Ms. Schubach's therapist, Ms. Margaret Morris, was received by DOPL before the Board meeting. Ms. Schubach's status has been changed to indicate that she is in compliance with her stipulation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Potential changes to definition of unprofessional conduct in Social Worker Licensing Act Rule

Mr. Oborn reviewed the conflicts between definitions of unprofessional conduct in the Mental Health Professional Practice Act Rule and the Social Worker Licensing Act Rule. Mr. Oborn noted that the Mental Health Professional Practice Act Rule affects all mental health therapists. Mr. Oborn stated that he reviewed this with NASW representatives. NASW representatives stated that they want to discuss this further at another meeting.

License by endorsement requirement in MHT Profession Practice Act

Mr. Oborn reviewed information regarding the licensure by endorsement requirement in the Mental Health Professionals Practice Act (Utah Code, Title 58, Chapter 60). Mr. Oborn noted that this requirement is the same for all mental health professionals except psychologists. The psychologists

have their own license by endorsement requirement in the Psychologist Licensing Act Rule that is less restrictive. The current statute makes it very difficult for part-time or retired LCSWs in other states to become licensed in Utah. The Board discussed the concerns in detail. Mr. Oborn noted that the current requirement does not require that the national exam be passed in the other states. Mr. Oborn will continue researching this issue and obtain feedback from various associations. The Board will revisit this at a future Board meeting.

Consideration of NASW proposal to modify Social Worker Licensing Act Rule to require that LCSW's complete at least 3 hours of continuing education in ethics/law.

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that he talked with Emily Bleyl at NASW. The NASW Board voted for the Social Worker Licensing Act Rule to require that LCSWs complete at least 3 hours of continuing education in ethics/law. Mr. Oborn stated that the current change in CEs is that the hours to collect CE run concurrent with the license renewal cycle. Mr. Oborn stated that the required number of hours of continuing education for an individual who first becomes licensed during the two year period shall be decreased in a pro-rata amount equal to any part of that two year period preceding the date on which that individual first became licensed. This became effective on October 22, 2009. Mr. Frandsen motioned to recommend changing R156-60a (304) to require that beginning with the license renewal period commencing on October 1, 2010, LCSWs complete at least 3 hours of continuing education in ethics/law, seconded by Mr. de St. Aubin. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Oborn will follow up with NASW representatives.

Update regarding potential amendments to Social Worker Licensing Act.

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Utah State University is proposing a bill to change the Social Worker Licensing Act to define the term "program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education." This would include a program that was accredited, and a program that was in candidacy for accreditation.

Currently the license by endorsement requirement in the Mental Health Professional Practice Act is more restrictive than the requirements in place in other states. This has created obstacles for individuals who have several years of experience, but may have retired.

Many cannot obtain licensure in Utah. Mr. Oborn stated that NASW has approved this to be part of the bill. They are still working out the specifics.

Recent surrender of LCSW license held by Roger Read

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Mr. Roger Read, LCSW, surrendered his license and reviewed the specific circumstances with the Board.

Megan Heath request to amend her Stipulation and Order

Taken out of order on the agenda:

Mr. Oborn reviewed Ms. Heath's probation history. Ms. Heath is requesting her stipulation be amended to allow her to submit only new medications and/or changes in her medication. After a detailed discussion, Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to amend Ms. Heath's stipulation to the following:
Notify the Division and Board of any changes to currently prescribed medications including dosages, new medications or discontinuance of medications, seconded by Ms. McAfee. The motion carried unanimously.

Jacqueline Allred request to approve a new supervisor.

Taken out of order on the agenda:

The Board reviewed a letter received from Mr. Lambert regarding his current supervisee responsibilities and Ms. Allred's request for Mr. Lambert be approved as her new supervisor. The Board talked with Mr. Lambert to clarify his supervisor responsibilities. Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to approve his request for additional supervisees, seconded by Mr. Frandsen. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the letter from Ms. Jacqueline Allred. Ms. Allred is requesting Mr. Glen Lambert be approved as her new supervisor. Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to approve Mr. Lambert as Ms. Allred's supervisor, seconded by Ms. Searle. The motion carried unanimously.

Pre Approval for ASWB exam

Taken out of order on the agenda:

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the Division received a letter from ASWB. ASWB is requiring all jurisdictions move to one of three options regarding candidates needing to take the ASWB exam. Of the three options, the best possibility appears to be one that would require that the candidates submit applications to the jurisdiction before registering for

and taking the ASWB licensure examination. The jurisdiction would review the licensure application and make a determination as to whether the candidate is eligible to take the ASWB licensure examination. Names of approved candidates are submitted to the ASWB Candidate Registration center, allowing the candidate to register for the exam approved by the jurisdiction. Once the examination has been taken, the results are forwarded to the jurisdiction, which ultimately issues the license. Under this process, examinees pay the relevant exam fees and there are no additional administrative fees charged by ASWB to Utah candidates or to the Utah Board.

The Board discussed the options and reviewed the Utah Mental Health Professional Practice Act 58-60-206, Qualifications for admission to examination. Mr. Oborn will consult with the Division Director regarding the direction the Division would move. He would then follow up with the Board.

Consideration of amendment to Brenda Welch
Stipulation and Order

Taken out of order on the agenda:

The Board reviewed the letter from Ms. Welch requesting an extension of the deadline for the CEs she is required to finish by November 2009. Ms. Welch also asked for approval to provide an oral presentation on a book titled: "Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions." by Corey, Corey, and Callahan. The Board noted that this book was published in 1993. After a detailed discussion, Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to extend Ms. Welch's continuing education requirement to January 2010, and have her propose a book or scholarly journal that is more current by January 7, 2010. The Board would like her to present this to the Board on March 4, 2010. After further discussion, it was decided that a motion was not needed. The Board noted that Ms. Welch has some specific circumstances and that because of these circumstances the Board liked Ms. Welch's proposal. The Board requested that the Division mail Ms. Welch a letter that would include the following information: The Board approves her proposal to complete the CE requirement via self-study but that the book titled "Issues and Ethics in the Helping Professions," by Corey, Cory and Callahan would not be sufficient because it was published so long ago. The Board would like her to propose reading material (book or an

article from a scholarly journal) that was published within the last 6 years. The Board requested that Ms. Welch describe in a letter to the Board how she believes the proposed book or article addresses the required topics identified in her stipulation. The Board requested that Ms. Welch submit the letter to the Division prior to the next board meeting on January 4, 2010.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time

ASWM letter regarding upcoming research projects

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

January 7, 2010

2010 Board Meetings Tentatively Scheduled

January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, September 2 October 7, November 4 December 2.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn at 1:48 P.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

January 7, 2010
Date Approved

(ss) Tammer Attallah
Chairperson, Utah Social Worker Licensing Board

December 17, 2009
Date Approved

(ss) Richard J. Oborn
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &
Professional Licensing