

**MINUTES**  
**UTAH**  
**SOCIAL WORKER LICENSING BOARD**  
**MEETING**

**February 4, 2010**

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

**CONVENED:** 9:09 A.M.

**ADJOURNED:** 12:03 P.M.

**Bureau Manager:**  
**Board Secretary:**  
**Board Members Present:**

Richard J. Oborn  
Lee Avery  
  
Tammer M. Attallah, Chairperson  
Dennis R. Frandsen  
Kathy Searle  
Evan C. Coats

**Board members Excused:**

Mark de St. Aubin  
Tanya Nagahiro  
Jean V. McAfee

**DOPL Staff Present:**

Connie Call, Compliance Specialist

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**

**MINUTES:**

The Board reviewed the minutes dated January 7, 2010. Mr. Frandsen motioned to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Searle. The motion carried unanimously.

**COMPLIANCE REPORT:**

Connie Call, Compliance Specialist

#1. Ms. Yvette Melby is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received acknowledgement from her supervisor and employer that they have read and understand the stipulation. Her supervisor, Mr. John Selfridge, stated he is not supervising more than three (3) individuals engaged in mental health therapy training. The Division received positive therapy reports from Diana Thomas. Ms. Thomas has an active LPC license with no discipline. Ms. Melby's twelve (12) step report was received.

#2. Ms. Dorothy Imperiale is in compliance with her stipulation. This is her first meeting with the Board. Ms. Imperiale signed and dated an employer report stating that she is self employed. She needs to submit a written plan for complying with her probation. She is required to submit ten (10) hours of continuing education (CE) and a five hundred (500) word letter within thirty (30) days of completing the CE.

**Discussion:**

The Board reviewed and discussed Ms. Imperiale's stipulation. The Board noted that Ms. Imperiale is required to meet with the Board quarterly and she is not required to have a supervisor in her private practice.

Preliminary review of discussion items:

Mr. Oborn reviewed the discussion items with the Board.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

Ms. Yvette Melby, probation interview

Ms. Melby met with the Board for her probation interview. Mr. Frandsen conducted the interview. Ms. Melby stated that things are going well. Her therapist is Diana Thomas, LPC. Ms. Thomas' license is active and in good standing. After a brief discussion, Mr. Frandsen motioned to accept Ms. Thomas as Ms. Melby's therapist, seconded by Ms. Searle. The motion carried unanimously. The Board reminded Ms. Melby that her continuing education courses need to be pre-approved and encouraged her to contact the Division as soon as she decides on the continuing education courses she plans to complete. The Board encouraged her to contact NASW, Utah Chapter for ethics courses. The Board noted that Ms. Melby will be out of the country in March. Ms. Melby stated that she continues working with the homeless at The Road Home. She continues doing yoga with clients. Ms. Melby stated that she meets regularly with her supervisor, Mr. John Selfridge. Her supervisor, Mr. Selfridge, is supportive and they have a good working relationship. The Board asked to see Ms. Melby on April 1, 2010. **Ms. Melby is in compliance with her stipulation.**

**Discussion:**

The Board discussed the importance of Ms. Melby

maintaining appropriate boundaries with clients who meet with her in sessions for therapy and sit in on her yoga classes. The Board will ask Ms. Melby about how she does this at the April 1, 2010 Board meeting.

Ms. Dorothy Imperiale, probation interview

Ms. Imperiale met with the Board for her probation interview. Mr. Attallah conducted the interview. The Board introduced itself. Ms. Imperiale reviewed the violations that placed her license on probation. At the time of the violation, she was working out of her home. Since then, she has moved her office to a professional building where other therapists have offices. Ms. Imperiale stated that she has always been involved in a peer support group. Ms. Imperiale reviewed her written plan for her probation. The Board recommended that Ms. Imperiale submit self-reports on a monthly basis for the first 6 months and on a quarterly basis thereafter. Her order does not require her to submit these reports; however, Ms. Imperiale agreed to follow the Board's recommendation. Mr. Attallah informed Ms. Imperiale that the reports will be due on the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. The Board asked Ms. Imperiale to address the progress she is making regarding the items that placed her license on probation. The Board encouraged Ms. Imperiale to make a journal and include what she has learned and where she is growing. The Board reviewed the continuing education courses proposed by Ms. Imperiale. Mr. Frandsen motioned to accept the "What Should I Do, 38 Ethical Dilemmas Involving Confidentiality" by Gerald Koocher, Ph.D. and Patricia Keith-Spiegel, Ph.D. for three (3) credit hours, seconded by Ms. Searle. The motion carried unanimously. The Board encouraged Ms. Imperiale to seek local continuing education courses. Mr. Oborn will send Ms. Imperiale a list of statutes and rules that apply to the practice of mental health therapy in Utah. The Board approved the "HIPAA, Five (5) Years Later, the Impact on Clinical Practice" for six (6) credit hours, if she can find a current version of the course. The Board encouraged her to contact the Utah Domestic Violence Council (UDVC) for training opportunities. The Board asked to see Ms. Imperiale on April 1, 2010. **Ms. Imperiale is in compliance with her stipulation.**

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

1. Frequency of licensing Board meetings

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the Division is looking to cut costs where possible. One way to cut costs is to decrease the frequency of Board meetings. The Board discussed the possibility of meeting bi-monthly. Mr. Oborn stated that he would provide information to Board members before meetings. This way they would be better prepared to discuss and make recommendations at the Board meeting. After further discussion, the Board decided to meet bi-monthly for a period and would later consider whether to meet quarterly. **The next Board meeting will be April 1, 2010.**

2. Rule change in Social Worker Licensing Act Rule regarding unprofessional conduct

Mr. Oborn stated that the Division is waiting for feedback from NASW regarding changing the language used for the unprofessional conduct section of the Social Worker Licensing Act Rule. Mr. Oborn noted that the NASW representatives currently are busy with statute changes. The Board will revisit this after the legislative session ends.

3. Upcoming vacancies on licensing Board

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Mr. Coates will be qualifying for his Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license. Once he obtains this license, he will no longer be able to occupy one of the certified social worker positions on the Board. Mr. Oborn stated that he talked with National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Utah Chapter, representatives about removing one member requirement in the statutes and replacing it with a third LCSW position. The Board discussed the difficulty in keeping two CSWs on the Board. The bill will become effective on May 3, 2010. NASW is having it placed in the bill that is being considered by the legislature. Mr. Oborn stated that Mr. de St. Aubin's term will end in June 2010. Mr. Oborn stated that he will advise the schools of the Board vacancies.

4. Update regarding legislative session

Mr. Oborn reviewed changes to the Mental Health Professional Practice Act (58-60) that would come under SB 90: Mental Health Professional Practice Act Amendments. The bill impacts the licensing and regulation of social workers in the following ways:

- (1) modifies requirements for licensure by endorsement;

- (2) amends the scope of practice of a social service worker (SSW);
- (3) allows for graduates from a program in candidacy for CSWE accreditation to meet the education requirements;
- (4) modifies the membership of the Social Worker Licensing Board by removing one of the CSW positions and replacing it with a LCSW position;
- (5) modifies the educational qualifications for the SSW license;
- (6) establishes a continuing education requirement for SSWs; and
- (7) modifies requirements for admission to the ASWB examination.

Under the bill, the SSW educational qualifications will change so that if an applicant has a bachelor's degree that is in something other than social work from a CSWE program, the applicant must verify completion of a 3 semester credit course in each of the following: (1) social welfare policy; (2) human growth and development; and (3) social work practice methods. The bill grants the Division authority to define the social work practice methods course in administrative rule. Currently, the University of Utah is the only school that offers a single bachelors level course that meets the social work practice methods course requirement. The course is online and people can take the course even if they are not formal matriculated students at the University of Utah. Utah Valley University and University of Phoenix currently have a combination of bachelors level courses that meet the social work practice methods course requirement. Once the bill passes, Mr. Oborn will contact schools in Utah to make them aware of these changes.

5. ASWB training conferences for 2010

Mr. Oborn reviewed the ASWB training conference with the Board. ASWB will cover the cost of one Board member attending each of the three meetings.

6. Carlon Cooke surrender of CSW license

Mr. Oborn reviewed the stipulation requiring Mr. Cook to surrender his license.

**Not on the agenda:**

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that in 2009, across

jurisdictions in the U.S., disciplinary action was taken against 4,959 social workers and in 2008 disciplinary action was taken against 4,400 social workers.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

None at this time

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:**

April 1, 2010

2010 Board Meetings Tentatively Scheduled

April 1, June 3, August 5, October 7, December 2.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn at 12:03 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.*

April 1, 2010  
Date Approved

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

April 1, 2010  
Date Approved

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