

MINUTES
UTAH
SOCIAL WORKER LICENSING BOARD
MEETING

April 1, 2010

Room 474, 4th Floor – 8:00 A.M.
Heber M. Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 8:12 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 1:24 P.M.

Bureau Manager:

Richard J. Oborn

Board Secretary:

Lee Avery

Board Members Present:

Tammer M. Attallah, Chairperson

Dennis R. Frandsen

Kathy Searle

Mark de St. Aubin

Tanya Nagahiro

Board members Excused:

Evan C. Coats

Jean V. McAfee

Guests:

Emily Bleyl, NASW

Elise Hutchings, NASW

Sarah Dehaan, University of Phoenix

Celeste McKelvey

Jeff Titus

DOPL Staff Present:

Ronda Trujillo, Compliance Specialist

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes dated February 4 2010. Mr. Frandsen motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. de St. Aubin. The motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: 8:15 a.m. – 10:00 A.M.

Enforcement of SB90: Mental Health Professional Practice Act Amendments and Amendments tot Social Worker Licensing Act

Mr. Oborn stated that the legislature's passing of SB 90 requires that the Social Worker Licensing Act Rule be amended. The Board first addressed the question of how to define a "social work practice methods" course in administrative rule. After discussion regarding the definition, the Board agreed on the following

definition:

The Social Work practice methods course:

- (a) generalist social work practice at the individual, family group, organization, and community levels;*
- (b) planned change process and social work roles at various levels;*
- (c) application of key values and principals of the NASW code of ethics in resolution of ethical dilemmas;*
- (d) social work practice and evaluation.*

Mr. Frandsen motioned to accept the above referenced definition of a “social work practice methods” course, seconded by Mr. de St. Aubin. The motion carried unanimously.

After further discussion, Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to amend subsection (d) to the following: “evaluation of program and direct practice,” seconded by Mr. Frandsen. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board next addressed the question of whether a licensee should be able to obtain CE credit by lecturing or instructing continuing education courses. The Board agreed that a licensee should be allowed to receive one contact hour of CE for every hour of time spent lecturing or instructing CE courses. After discussion regarding this topic, Mr. de St. Aubin motioned to approve this proposal. Mr. Frandsen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board next addressed the question of how many hours of CE credit that a licensee should be able to complete online. Licensees currently may count only 10 hours of online CE toward the 40 total hour requirement. The Board noted that most courses are completed in increments of three hours. The Board agreed that the limit should be increased to 15. Mr. Frandsen motioned to approve this proposal, seconded by Ms. Searle. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board next discussed whether CE credit should be awarded for personal or group study of a scholarly reviewed journal. The Board discussed how it would

be difficult to verify the quality of this type of continuing education. The Board also discussed how it would be difficult to account for the number of hours of credit. After further discussion, the Board agreed that CE credit should not be awarded for personal or group study of a scholarly reviewed journal.

The Board briefly discussed whether the current list of acceptable CE providers in administrative rule should be modified. They agreed to the possibility of discussing this issue at a future Board meeting.

The Board briefly discussed the possibility of requiring clinical supervisors to complete at least three hours of CE relating to supervision during every two (2) year license renewal cycle. The Board agreed that this requirement was not appropriate because there currently are not many opportunities for LCSWs to complete CE relating to supervision.

The Board agreed to address the question of whether to modify the definition of unprofessional conduct in cases of dual relationships in R156-60a-502 at a future Board meeting.

Mr. Oborn will incorporate the rule amendments recommended by the Board in the proposed rule changes.

COMPLIANCE REPORT:
Ronda Trujillo, Compliance Specialist

#1. Ms. Yvette Melby is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received her monthly reports, supervisor reports, and 12 step reports. She was ill and missed calling the drug screen phone line on one day.

#2. Mr. James Stringham is in compliance with his stipulation. The Division received his quarterly reports from Chris Robertson. There was more information on the report as requested at the last appointment.

#3. Ms. Dorothy Imperiale is in compliance with her stipulation. Ms. Imperiale submitted a very thorough self report. The Board discussed reviewed her written plan.

#4. Ms. Jacqueline Allred is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received her employer and supervisor reports. These are all positive. Ms. Allred should bring her written essay with her. Her continuing education hours have been completed. She has completed over ½ of her probation and has been totally compliant.

#5. Ms. Anntionette Titus is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received her quarterly reports from Pam Gramse, her employer, K.C. Benn, her supervisor, and Karen Logan, her therapist. All reports are positive.

#6. Mr. Fred Carlson is in compliance with his stipulation. The Division received his monthly employer report from Michelle Peterson and his supervisor report from Rebecca Porter. These reports are current and positive.

Discussion:

The Board discussed moving Mr. Carlson's reports to quarterly.

#7. Mr. William Green is in compliance with his stipulation. The Division received his supervisor report from Will Dredge and his therapist report from Paul Peterson. Both reports are current and positive. The Division received information that Mr. Green started his own company called Assent.

#8. Ms. Theresa Schubach is in compliance with her stipulation. The Division received all of her reports. Her therapist, Ms. Margaret Morris, submitted a letter supporting early termination of Ms. Schubach's probation. Ms. Schubach submitted a letter requesting early termination.

#9. Ms. Megan Heath is in compliance with her stipulation. Ms. Trujillo verified that her therapy report was mailed to the Division; however, it has not been received yet. Ms. Heath would like to request the Board change how often her reports are due. She would like them due quarterly.

Update:

Ms. Brenda Welch was supposed to submit her essay and meet with the Board today; however, she has had some serious issues relating to her family and medical issues that caused her to not complete the essay. Mr. Oborn advised her that the Board would extend this deadline until June 3, 2010.

Ms. Emily Berry is not working in the field at this time. The Division has received her reports and she is doing well.

Ms. Xan Kali is not working in the field at this time. The Division has received her reports and she is doing well.

Mr. Enrique Velasquez is not working in the field at this time. The Division has received his reports and he is doing well.

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 her yoga therapy is with a small group of women. The yoga therapy class is open to everyone attending the Palmer Court program. The Board encouraged Ms. Melby to be cautious of the different levels of intimacy with her clients. The Board noted that this could be dual relationship and could be confusing to a client. The Board expressed the need to maintain confidentiality during yoga therapy sessions with clients. The Board meeting closed at 10:15 A.M. to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual (52-4-205(1)(a)). The Board meeting opened at 10:21 A.M. Ms. Melby gave the Board a continuing education course she is considering. The name of the course is "Ethics for Social Worker II: What Every Social Worker needs to Know." This course is for six (6) hours. The Board approved this course. The Board asked to see Ms. Melby June 3, 2010. **Ms. Melby is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Mr. James Stringham, probation interview

Mr. Stringham met with the Board for his probation interview. Mr. Attallah conducted the interview. Mr. Stringham raised a question regarding the protocol for

seeking advice regarding ethical issues. The Board encouraged him to contact his work associates, peers, the professional association, and/or his malpractice provider attorneys for advice. Mr. Stringham stated that things are going well. He is keeping busy at home and work. The Board asked to see Mr. Stringham on August 5, 2010. **Mr. Stringham is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Ms. Dorothy Imperiale, probation interview

Ms. Imperiale met with the Board for her probation interview. Ms. Searle conducted the interview. Ms. Imperiale gave the Board a copy of her written plan for probation. The Board noted that the details of her plan were discussed at the February Board meeting. Ms. Imperiale advised the Board that journaling has helped her a lot. She is turning to her colleagues for advice. Ms. Imperiale stated that she has not completed the continuing education course the Board approved. The Board noted that these are due August 2010. The Board asked Ms. Imperiale to submit her journals on the 20th of each month. The Board asked to see Ms. Imperiale on June 3, 2010. **Ms. Imperiale is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Ms. Jacqueline Allred, probation interview

Ms. Allred met with the Board for her probation interview. Ms. Nagahiro conducted the interview. Ms. Allred reviewed the circumstances that led to an anonymous complaint regarding her smoking marijuana with her stepdaughter. Ms. Allred stated that her employer did a drug screen on her at the time. The results were negative. This documentation was provided to the Division. The Board thanked Ms. Allred for being pro-active in resolving this dilemma. Ms. Allred gave the Board her essay. Ms. Allred stated that she was promoted to IOT Team leader. This is a new position and they are still working out the job duties and description. The Board noted that Ms. Allred's probation term is January 2009 to January 2011 and she has completed half of her probation term. The Board advised Ms. Allred that since she has completed all of the requirements of her stipulation and she has consistently been in compliance with her stipulation the Board might consider releasing her from her probation at the Board meeting in June. The Board stated she would need to submit a letter requesting early termination of her

probation. Her supervisor, Kristi Johnson, would need to note in her next report whether she supports early termination of Ms. Allred's probation term. The Board asked to see Ms. Allred on June 3, 2010. **Ms. Allred is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Ms. Anntionette Titus, probation interview

Ms. Titus met with the Board. Mr. de St. Aubin conducted the interview. Ms. Titus stated that there have been no changes. She continues working at Blue Skies Recovery Center. K.C. Benn is her supervisor and Karen Logan is her therapist. The Board noted that Ms. Titus has completed the twenty (20) hours of continuing education hours required in her stipulation. Ms. Titus stated she has completed about 2,774 hours towards her LCSW. The Board asked to see Ms. Titus August 5, 2010. **Ms. Titus is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Mr. Fred Carlson, probation interview

Mr. Carlson met with the Board. Mr. Frandsen conducted the interview. Mr. Carlson stated that his supervisor will be leaving employment and he will need to find another supervisor. The Board noted that it would prefer he find a LCSW; however, because of his special circumstances, the Board would consider approving a mental health therapist. Mr. Carlson stated that things are going well. He is keeping very busy. Mr. Carlson stated that even though productivity has increased, he is making sure he is keeping the appropriate records. The Board noted that his supervisor and employer reports are positive. The Board asked to see Mr. Carlson on August 5, 2010. **Mr. Carlson is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Mr. William Green, probation interview

Mr. Green met with the Board for his probation interview. Mr. de St Aubin conducted the interview. Mr. Green advised the Board that he is working independently through his private practice and developing a training manual. He averages 15 to 20 hours a week. He is currently working on a training manual for a rehabilitation facility. Once the facility is open, he will be working as a site clinical director along with other medical management employees. The Board reviewed Mr. Green's training manual. The Board encouraged Mr. Green to submit a formal, written request to amend his stipulation to allow him

to supervise clinicians. The Board stated that a written letter from his employer would be helpful too. After further discussion, the Board noted that Mr. Green's probation term is May 13, 2008 through May 13, 2013. On November 13, 2010, he will have completed half of his probation term. The Board noted that the Board might consider releasing Mr. Green from probation with a written request from Mr. Green for early termination of his probation. The Board advised Mr. Green that his continuing education (CE) courses need to be relevant to his practice and referred him to the Social Worker Practice Act Rules for additional specific CE requirements. The Board asked to see Mr. Green on August 5, 2010. **Mr. Green is in compliance with his stipulation.**

Ms. Theresa Schubach, probation interview

The Board contacted Ms. Schubach for a telephone interview regarding her probation. Ms. Schubach stated that she is doing well. She continues seeing her counselor two (2) times a month. She feels she has made excellent progress with boundaries and ethics. The Board reviewed Ms. Schubach's request for early termination of her probation. The Board noted that her supervisor and therapist are supporting Ms. Schubach's early release from probation. After further discussion, Ms. Nagahiro motioned to release Ms. Schubach from probation, seconded by Mr. Frandsen. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Megan Heath, probation interview

The Board contacted Ms. Heath for a telephone interview regarding her probation interview. Ms. Nagahiro motioned to close the meeting at 12:43 P.M. to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual (52-4-205(1)(a)). The Board meeting opened at 12:55 P.M. Ms. Heath requested the Board move her therapy reports to quarterly. After further discussion, the Board agreed this would be acceptable. The Board noted that her next report is due May 20, 2010. The Board noted her stipulation requires one person to oversee all of her medications. Ms. Heath stated that she has signed a contract with Dr. J. Michael Marcum to oversee all of her medication. The Board requested that Dr. Marcum submit a copy of this contract or a written statement indicating that he will oversee all of Ms. Heath's medications. Ms. Heath was advised that

the Board still needs a copy of her final disposition papers from the court. The Board requested to meet with Ms. Heath on June 3, 2010. **Ms. Heath is in compliance with her stipulation.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Amendments to Social Worker Licensing Act Rule Social Worker Practice Methods Course requirement

This discussion took place earlier in the meeting and will continue at future Board meetings.

2. Counting a CSW's hours in supervision toward 1,000 hours

Tabled until the June 3, 2010 Board meeting.

3. Update on ASWB examination pre-approval

Mr. Oborn noted that the process is on track and continues moving forward regarding the Division approving applicants to take the ASWB exam. This is scheduled to start in July 2010.

4. Conflicts of interest between roles of LCSW and corrections officer

Tabled until the June 3, 2010 Board meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

June 3, 2010

2010 Board Meetings Scheduled
June 3, August 5, October 7, December 2.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn at 1:23 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.

June 3, 2010
Date Approved

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

April 28, 2010
Date Approved

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