



**STATE of OREGON**  
**BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS**  
**Board Meeting**  
**Friday, January 19, 2024**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**  
**3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302**

**Board Members Present:** Stephanie Manriquez, *Public Member, Chair*  
Amy Ashton-Williams, *LCSW, Vice Chair*  
John Fant, *Public Member*  
Mollie Janssen, *LCSW*  
Scott Wilson, *CSWA*

**Board Counsel Present:** Kyle Martin, *AAG, Oregon Dept. of Justice*

**Staff Members Present:** Ray Miller, *Executive Director*  
Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*  
Mindy Tucker, *Compliance Specialist*  
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*  
Wende Thatcher, *Licensing Compliance Specialist*

**Pubic Present:** Paddy Farr  
Yola Gomez  
Alex Brown  
Delmar Stone  
Juliana Wallace  
Hari Vellaipandian

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

**Chair Manriquez** called the Board Meeting to order at 10:54 a.m. and provided brief opening remarks.

**2. REVIEW OF AGENDA:**

**Chair Manriquez** asked for review of the draft agenda.

- i. **Janssen moved to approve and adopt the agenda as presented.**
- ii. **Ashton-Williams seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**3. MINUTES:**

**Chair Manriquez** asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the December 8, 2023 Board meeting:

- i. **Fant moved to approve the minutes for December 8, 2023 as presented.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. NEW STAFF MEMBER INTRODUCTION:**

**Director Miller** introduced **Cassie Kanaeholo**, who was hired to fill the Board's 0.5 FTE Office Specialist 2 position that was approved in the 2023-2025 budget. Kanaeholo's first day was October 24, 2023 and they have already made a positive impact on the Board's backlog of applications.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

[No public comment at this time]

**6. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Chair Manriquez** announced that the Board would now enter into Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 162.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)(l). The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m. Chair Manriquez moved the Board out of Executive Session at 11:21 a.m.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Janssen** presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

**In the matter of case 2012-54:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2012-72:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2019-21:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2016-34:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2023-04:**

- i. **Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2015-32:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2015-38:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2016-05:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2017-33:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2017-36:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2017-39:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2017-26:**

- i. Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2018-35:**

- i. Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2017-17:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2023-11:**

- i. Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. Wilson seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2023-14:**

- i. **Janssen moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2023-39:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2019-13:**

- i. **Janssen moved to close the case.**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**In the matter of case 2019-31:**

- i. **Janssen moved to approve and adopt the Stipulated Final Order as presented effective July 29, 2022**
- ii. **Wilson seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Wilson** provided the Licensing and Examination Committee report, announcing that committee had reviewed and approved two Previous Hours requests for CSWA **Chinwe Madu** and LCSW applicant **Elizabeth Strewler**, and reviewed a Six Month Supervision Report for CSWA **Nathaniel Brown**. The Committee also reviewed correspondence received from **Italia Hensley** regarding LMFT and LPC supervisors, the Committee deferred this for the full Board for discussion.

**Wilson** provided the Continuing Education Committee report and advised that committee had approved four CE requests from LCSW **Erin Winn Oliva**. The Committee also reviewed and approved the **Association for Play Therapy** as a Board accepted credentialing body.

**8. SPECIAL REVIEWS**

[No special reviews]

**9. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE DIRECTOR INTRODUCTION:**

**Director Miller** introduced **Juliana Wallace** who was hired five months ago in Governor Kotek's office to be the Behavioral Health Initiative Director. Their unique position involves all things behavioral health across multiple agencies, Boards, and Commissions. They also help to carry out the Governor's initiative and goal work around behavioral health specifically in the state of Oregon. Wallace is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and has practiced for 20 years in the Portland metro area in the intersection of homelessness, acute mental illness, and active substance use cycles. **Wilson** inquired about the initiatives Wallace would like to see from the Board. **Wallace** stated that the Governor has discussed addressing backlog and efficiency in licensure approval for all behavioral health licensing boards, and looking at ways that boards can support and partner in approaches in reducing time to enter the workforce. Wallace encouraged Board members to contact them with any questions or feedback.

**10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:**

**Director Miller** provided a licensing system update. **Miller** has been in discussion with Thentia regarding the Board's licensing system upgrade to Thentia 2.0, also known as Thentia Cloud, which has more capabilities and is more robust than the Board's present system. Miller has a meeting with the Thentia Project Manager assigned to BLSW on January 22, 2024 to discuss a timeline for the system migration. Miller requested feedback from Board members who have experience using the Board's licensing system.

**Director Miller** provided a new Board member update. **Paddy Farr** is expected to be confirmed at the next Senate confirmation hearing which is scheduled for February 6<sup>th</sup>. Farr will be filling one of the Board's three LCSW positions. There is currently still one public member position open. Miller is working with the Governor's Office and Consulting Advisor to fill that position, and expects to have some progress in the coming weeks.

**Director Miller** discussed the OHA workforce survey which is a mandatory survey integrated into all licensee renewals. OHA is proposing an expansion to the survey. The health regulatory licensing boards in Oregon, including the BLSW, collectively sent a letter to OHA stating their concerns regarding the survey expansion being a condition of licensure instead of a standalone data collection. The letter also expressed concerns regarding the questions exceeding the scope of the mandatory workforce data questions authorized by the Oregon Legislature in ORS 676.410.

**Director Miller** reviewed licensing statistics, there are currently a total of 8,471 licensees. Staff has made progress on processing applications. Currently CSWA applications submitted on December 2<sup>nd</sup> are being reviewed which is a significant improvement in processing timelines.

**11. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

- i. **Ashton-Williams moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**12. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Alex Brown** acknowledged positive changes since the previous Board meeting such as updated minutes on the Board website, less difficulties joining the meeting, updated current Board member contact information, and the shortened timeline for applicants getting licensed. Brown expressed their frustrations in obtaining employment so they may apply to become a CSWA. In Brown's experience, employers have stated they are only hiring individuals who already have their CSWA. Brown would like to see a systemic change in the application process. Brown requested an extenuating circumstance exception to obtain their CSWA without employment. Board members informed Brown that their request would require a rule change. **Miller** will work with employers to educate them on the process for obtaining a CSWA, as well as communicate that the approval time for CSWA applications has been greatly reduced.

**Yola Gomez** is a PhD candidate and graduate teaching assistant at Oregon State University in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Their area of research and expertise means that they come into contact with a lot of minoritized and marginalized community members, as well as social works and social work-adjacent individuals who work within the realm of advocacy. Gomez has submitted an application to become a public member of the Board.

**13. OLD BUSINESS:**

**Director Miller** has been working on a draft DEI Plan and anticipates having it ready for Board review by the next Board meeting.

**Chair Manriquez** discussed feedback and comments received about the Board newsletter. Chair Manriquez requested topic suggestions from Board members for the next newsletter, which they would like to issue quarterly. **Miller** will look into ways the Board can market the newsletter so that it reaches more people. **Farr** inquired about social media for the Board.

**Coleman** discussed the Six Month Supervision Report form revisions. The draft form will be emailed out to supervisors and CSWAs for feedback before the form is finalized.

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Wilson** informed Board members that the state of Illinois adopted an alternative pathway to licensure as of January 1, 2024. Illinois is requiring that these individuals have attempted the ASWB Clinical exam. Candidates who do not receive a passing exam score will have the option of submitting an additional 3,000 hours of supervised practice in lieu of passing the exam. Board members discussed exploring an alternative path to licensure other than the ASWB Clinical exam. **Chair Manriquez** suggested putting together a task force to explore what other states are doing for alternative pathways such as removing the exam requirement or adding additional requirements. **Martin** stated that the Board would need to describe what the task force is, decide how many members are on it, and define the purpose of the task force is and what it will be doing. Martin advised that there could not be a quorum of Board members on the task force without creating a Board meeting and suggested limiting it to two to three Board members. **Wilson** and **Farr** will work on a task force proposal for the Board to consider at the next Board meeting.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Chair Manriquez** discussed an email the Board office received from **Italia Hensley**, LMFT regarding the Board's rules pertaining to CSWA supervisor requirements excluding Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) and Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs). **Wilson** and **Coleman** confirmed with the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists that LCSWs are allowed to provide supervision for the entirety of their Associate's hours. **Chair Manriquez** would like to have a conversation around the possibility of allowing a portion of a CSWA's supervised experience to be under the supervision of an LMFT or LPC. **Janssen** highlighted the importance of the lens of social justice that separates counseling from social work. **Ashton-Williams** discussed the differences in the code of conduct for each profession and suggested requiring an exam for these supervisors. **Janssen** suggested requiring continuing education specific to social work such as identity, social justice, or DEI. The Board's Joint Rules and Legislative Committee will work on possible rule language during the Committee's next meeting. The Committee will also revisit the rule regarding a reduction in supervision hours for CSWAs.

**16. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Delmar Stone** provided an NASW update. Stone informed Board members that NASW is not going to go forward with the Interstate Compact bill this year and is now going with Representative Deihl's legislation, LC 98, which requires temporary licensure for all health care professionals. Stone extended an invitation to **Miller** to attend the NASW Advocacy Day at the capital on February 13<sup>th</sup>. When the Interstate Compact becomes available, NASW would like to also have an alternative

pathway for licensure. Stone stated the Oregon State Bar now has an alternative pathway that may be a good example to examine. NASW has a theme for Social Work Month in March which will be Empowering Social Workers. Stone offered to collaborate on a statement from the BLSW and NASW about the value and importance of the social work profession.

**17. ADJOURNMENT:**

- i. Wilson moved to adjourn the Board meeting.**
- ii. Fant seconded.**
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Chair Manriquez** adjourned the Board meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*