

APPROVED MINUTES

**STATE BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
Board Planning Meeting
Friday, October 22, 2010
Second Floor Conference Room
3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302**

- Board Members Present: Becky Rasmussen, Chair
Cheryl Price, Vice-Chair
Mark Oldham
Carol Copley Zancanella (from 8:50 a.m. on)
Sara Dehaan
Tania Rain
- Board Counsel present: Kyle Martin, AAG, Oregon Dept. of Justice
(from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.)
- Staff Members Present: Aaron Bales
Pam Johansen
Victoria McCullough (from 8:30 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.)
- Invited Guests Present: Angelique Bowers (from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.)
Tamara Brickman (from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rasmussen called the Board Planning Meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and welcomed Board and staff members. Rasmussen introduced new public Board member Tania Rain and staff member Victoria McCullough. Board members introduced themselves. Tania Rain reviewed her background with Board members. Zancanella joined the Board meeting at 8:50 a.m. and introduced herself to Rain.

2. REVIEW / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Rasmussen reviewed the planning meeting agenda with Board members.

3. SENATE BILL 177 IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING DISCUSSION

Rasmussen asked Board members to discuss what steps needed to be taken now with respect to the continuing education program planning for the new license types. Pittioni provide a brief overview of approaches in other states. Board members agreed to maintain the attestation approach and ethics component present in the LCSW level CE for the structure of the CE program at the LMSW and RBSW level, and to allow for CE that is not pre-approved by the Board based on certifications of completion that would have to be submitted if CE is audited.

Board members agreed to develop a policy in the future, to be reflected in rule at a later point in time, to be formulated into rule later, that would allow a framework for permitting CE credit for in-service training at the RBSW level without prior Board approval, and allowing such trainings for full compliance for RBSW CE obligations, as long as the requirement for 6 hours of ethics education was met. Board members discussed permitting this ins-service training CE for up to 50% of LMSW CE requirements as well, with as simple as framework as possible. Board members agreed that there was no need to work this issue out as part of the current proposed rules of the Board.

Chair Rasmussen requested that the Board now turn to a planning discussion of other Senate Bill 177 Implementation issues. Pittioni provided a brief overview of the implementation timeline. Board members discussed the possibility of adding a Board meeting by conference call at the end of December 2010, to approve any clinical license or certification applications completed after the December 7, 2010, Board meeting, and before mandatory licensure for clinical social work begins on January 1, 2011.

Rasmussen requested the Board discuss pending issues regarding regulation of Clinical Social Work Associates. Rasmussen raised the issue of policy regarding supervision plans at the point of initial certification. Pittioni added that the problem is a catch-22 once the practice act for clinical social work applies in January 2011, as certification will be required to work clinically, but certification requires a supervision plan in place from the future employer. Board members discussed the issue and determined that the Board office would issue letters to applicants for CSWA status that the applicants could use to show potential employers that the applicant has an application pending with the Board, and cannot complete the certification process without a plan of supervision that includes approvals from the future employer.

Chair Rasmussen then discussed with the Board the relationship between CSWA program completion and the LMSW license, given the Board's new statutory language that will soon require issuance of an LMSW as a prerequisite for LCSW licensure, unless the applicant for LCSW has a CSWA certification issued on or before December 31, 2010. Board members discussed the matter and agreed to an approach where - upon 75% completion of the CSWA supervision requirement - the CSWA applicant for LCSW licensure would be eligible for a fee waiver for issuance of an initial LMSW license.

Board members then discussed those applicants applying directly for LCSW licensure, without going through the Oregon Board's CSWA program. Board members determined that in order to comply with the statute those applicants would have to simultaneously apply for LMSW and LCSW licensure, ideally on a single combined application form, pay only the single LCSW application fee, pay for a single background check fee, but would have to pay two initial license fees for LMSW and LCSW licensure.

Chair Rasmussen then reviewed with the Board possible additional changes to the Board's Proposed Rules. Pittioni provided and reviewed a handout of the October 15, 2010 filing of a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the Secretary of State extending the comment period to December 2, 2010, and associated updated text of the proposed rules with all text changes approved at the September 2010 meeting of the Board.

Pittioni asked if the Board was inclined to consider at the December 7, 2010 Board possible edits with respect to the Designated Records Custodian Rule in OAR 877-030-0100, as previously discussed in the Rules Advisory Committee and at the Board level, for purposes of expansion of the rule to allow designation of medical records management companies as records custodians. Board members agreed to development of possible rules edits to that effect.

Pittioni requested Board guidance as to the Board's position with respect to applicants for RBSW from programs rated in candidacy status by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Board members discussed the matter and agreed that Pittioni could develop rules language for Board consideration permitting the Board to consider BSW-level applicants from programs in candidacy. Board members also clarified that they would only be open to such an approach at the BSW level given the relatively young age of BSW-level programs, and would not consider such an approach at the MSW level.

Pittioni asked for guidance with respect to those graduating from MSW programs and the challenge to move those recent MSW graduates quickly toward clinical certification as a CSWA once the licensure requirement for clinical social work takes effect in January 2011. Pittioni added that a particular challenge can be that posting of MSW degrees on transcripts may not occur for months after graduation. Board members discussed the issue and determined that staff could accept letters from MSW programs certifying that the applicant has met degree requirements, as long as primary source verification of MSW degree completion from a CSWE-accredited program would still occur, including submission of transcripts showing that the MSW was awarded.

Pittioni then discussed with the Board the issue of clinical licensure/certification lapse once the mandatory licensing requirement applies in January 2011. Board members determined that anyone with a lapsed authorization would need to go through the re-application process without any short-cuts, including criminal background checks. Pittioni advised he was continuing to work with staff to improve turn-around time on the state and national criminal background checks processed as required by Oregon State Police (OSP). Pittioni explained that special emphasis was on gaining Law Enforcement Data System (LEDS) terminal access in the Board office to speed up access to the results obtained by OSP. Pittioni added that staff was working on understanding and implementing the applicable OSP requirements, and were working with the Board's IT consultant on the technical end of the link to OSP.

Pittioni asked if the Board would consider in the future, once LEDS capacity has been implemented, to conduct LEDS-only instant checks for purposes of certification and licensure renewals. Pittioni advised that adding LEDS access may provide the Board with an opportunity to move beyond background checks for new applicants only, and provide one possible option to expand background checks to all those with an authorization to practice from this Board. Board members discussed the matter and agreed that they may be open to using that approach in the future for licensure renewals. Pittioni added that he had not yet had time to formally work through the issue of developing employee criminal background check rules, and may attempt to bring that issue back at the December 2010 Board.

Chair Rasmussen announced that given the advanced time the Board would continue working through lunch and defer consideration of legislative items to the next day.

Rasmussen excused Oldham and Dehaan to conduct business as members of the Board's Continuing Education committee, with any recommendations from that work to be considered at the October 23, 2010, meeting of the Board.

Chair Rasmussen then asked Pittioni to review a draft new mission statement reflecting the Board's expanded authority beyond clinical social work, while reducing the length of the current mission statement. Board members reviewed the draft with Pittioni and agreed to forward it to the October 23 Board meeting for consideration.

Rasmussen recessed the Board at 1:10 p.m.

5. BUDGETARY IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL 177

Chair Rasmussen reconvened the Board meeting at 1:30 p.m., with Oldham and Dehaan rejoining the Board meeting. Rasmussen recognized Tamara Brickman, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) budget analyst assigned to the Board, and Angelique Bowers, DAS accountant assigned to the Board. Board members introduced themselves.

Brickman reviewed the Legislative Emergency Board process for 2009-11 budget limitation increase primarily to account for increased Board expenditures to implement Senate Bill 177, and confirmed the Board would need to go before the December meeting of the Emergency Board. Brickman reported on her meeting with Pittioni, Bowers and Robin LaMonte of the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) in preparation for the E-Board request and the Board's 2011-13 Budget. Bowers reviewed the Board's revenue and expenses through September 2010, and the projected need for expenditure limitation increase that the Board would need to request from the Emergency Board.

Chair Rasmussen thanked Brickman and Bowers for their presentation and assistance to the Board in the budget process. Brickman and Bowers left the Board meeting.

6. Senate Bill 177 Outreach Implementation Update

Rasmussen asked Pittioni to report on outreach. Pittioni reported on his presentation to the Portland State University Salem MSW distance learning cohort on September 24, 2010, also attended by staff of Willamette Valley Hospice, and his meeting with a Portland Adventist Medical Center LCSW supervisor of medical social workers.

Board counsel Martin joined the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Pittioni then reviewed and provided copied of his co-presentation with ASWB to social workers attending the national CSWE conference in Portland on October 16, 2010. Pittioni added that outreach efforts are ongoing by phone and e-mail.

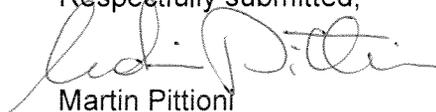
7. MOVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Rasmussen announced that the Board would now enter executive session to conduct board business under the authority of ORS 192.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)(k). The Board entered executive session at 3:00 p.m. The Board re-entered public session at 3:58 p.m.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Rasmussen advised that a subcommittee of the Board would meet in executive session at 4:00 p.m. to conduct an interview in a compliance case, and reminded Board members that the regular Board meeting would convene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 23, 2010. Chair Rasmussen adjourned the Planning Meeting of the Board at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin Pittioni
Executive Director