



STATE of OREGON
BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
Board Meeting
Friday, September 20, 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*
Paddy Farr, *LCSW*

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*
Troy Clinton, *Investigator*
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*
Wende Thatcher, *Licensing Compliance Specialist*

Public Present: Daisy Barrios-Hani, *LCSW*
Heidi Pendergast, *OR Dir., Healing Advocacy Fund*
Henry O'Keefe, *Lobbyist, NASW OR Chapter*
Delmar Stone, *Executive Director, NASW OR Chapter*
Brandy Hemsley, *Executive Appointments Advisor*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Manriquez called the Board Meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. and provided brief opening remarks.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA:

Chair Manriquez asked for review of the draft agenda.

- i. **Farr moved to approve and adopt the agenda as presented.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. MINUTES:

Chair Manriquez asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the July 19, 2024 Board meeting:

- i. **Ashton-Williams moved to approve the minutes for July 19, 2024 as presented.**
- ii. **Farr seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

[No public comment at this time]

5. 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 11:02 a.m. Chair Manriquez moved the Board out of Executive Session at 11:05 a.m.

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:

Director Miller has been asked by the House Interim Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare to provide a presentation on the Board's metrics and the Social Work Compact next week for Legislative Days.

Director Miller provided an update on SB 1552. The BLSW and other health licensing boards are all affected by the bill. Miller has been participating in a health licensing board group to collaborate and discuss SB 1552, which will require the Board to make a predetermination based upon a individual's criminal conviction as to whether or not it would prevent them from obtaining licensure before they apply.

Director Miller provided a Thentia update. There are no significant updates since the last Board meeting. Miller is advocating for the Board to receive General Funding to support a new licensing system.

Director Miller provided a staffing update. Miller's original plan was to hire two limited duration Office Specialist 2 positions. Currently one of those positions is filled. The Board's CFO Budget Analyst has recommended to not fill the second position and keep those funds in the Board's reserves.

Director Miller will send a final draft of the DEI plan for Board members to review and discuss at the following Board meeting.

Director Miller discussed regulated social worker communications. Board staff are currently working on the next email that will be sent out to all regulated social workers. The topic of the email will be supervisor responsibilities and requirements.

Director Miller is coordinating with individuals interested in participating in the Board's Rules Advisory Committee to schedule a committee meeting. Miller will email a roster of the participants to the Board.

Director Miller discussed increasing fees. The Board's CFO Budget Analyst has advised to not move forward with the fee increase until after the upcoming legislative session.

Director Miller reviewed licensing statistics. There are currently 6716 LCSWs, 1984 CSWAs, 350 LMSWs, and 33 RBSWs for a total of 9,083 regulated social workers in Oregon.

Director Miller reviewed applicant statistics. Board staff are consistently processing all application types within 30 days.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT:

[No public comment at this time]

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Tucker presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

In the matter of case 2018-19:

- i. Ashton-Williams moved to approve and adopt the Stipulated Final Order as presented.
- ii. Fant seconded.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of case 2019-03:

- i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
- ii. Fant seconded.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of case 2020-01:

- i. Fant moved to close the case.
- ii. Ashton-Williams seconded.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of case 2020-06:

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

In the matter of case 2020-08:

- i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
- ii. Fant seconded.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of case 2020-22:

- i. Fant moved to close.
- ii. Ashton-Williams seconded.
- iii. Motion passed unanimously.

In the matter of case 2020-25:

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

In the matter of case 2020-28

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

In the matter of case 2020-29:

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

In the matter of case 2022-15:

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

In the matter of case 2023-13:

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

In the matter of case 2023-43:

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

In the matter of case 2024-10:

- i. **Ashton-Williams moved to close.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the matter of case 2024-22:

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

In the matter of case 2024-29:

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

Farr provided the Licensing and Examination Committee report, announcing that committee approved one Previous Hours requests for LCSW applicant **Tziporah Schiffer**; two Plan Extension requests for CSWAs **Brittney Muir** and **Christina De Benedetti**; one Supervision Hours requests for CSWA **Michelle Carpenter**; eleven Reduction in Supervision Meetings requests from CSWAs **Alyssa Mota**, **Chinwe Madu**, **Elise Bucher**, **Jesse Emerson**, **Kevin Farris**, **Kristen Anders**, **Kylee Currie**, **LaVonne King**, **Sara De La Torre**, **Tabitha Garnett**, and **Tu Chuc**; and two Plan Change requests from CSWAs **Selene Valencia** and **Jennifer Fraga**.

Farr provided the Continuing Education Committee report and advised that committee had approved five CE requests from LCSWs **Amelia Brasch**, **Diane Andrews**, **Kathleen Hicks**, **Katie Sass**, and **Scotti Warren**. LCSW **Emily Noack's** CE request was not approved because the course was not related to social work and pertained to self-improvement.

Farr provided the Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee report. The committee met on September 14th and approved their final report and recommendations for Board consideration. **Chair Manriquez** would like additional time for thorough review of the document and in-depth discussion. Board members discussed adding a link to the report in the next Board newsletter. **Director Miller** recommended scheduling a special meeting to gather information and discuss the report further. Board members discussed adding the report to the October 25th agenda. **Ashton-Williams** suggested also sending a survey out for public feedback.

9. SPECIAL REVIEWS

[No special reviews at this time]

10. OLD BUSINESS:

Delmar Stone, Executive Director of the NASW OR Chapter, provided an update on the Interstate Compact. Stone attended the first Interstate Commission meeting on September 17th. The next meeting will be held in February or March of 2025. The Commission is considering allowing an alternative pathway for licensure other than the exam. If the BLSW were to eliminate the exam requirement completely, it does not appear that the Board would be eligible to join the Compact. Within the social work profession, there is an ongoing divide in opinion regarding the exam. Stone will email the Board a list of the states that are considering eliminating the exam requirement. The Council on State Governments has announced that there will be at least six bills to peruse interstate compacts in Oregon. The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists will be moving forward with compact legislation.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Heidi Pendergast, Oregon Director of the Healing Advocacy Fund, provided a presentation on psilocybin therapy. The presentation included information on the Healing Advocacy Fund mission, what psilocybin therapy is, Measure 109, how Oregon's psilocybin therapy program works, program eligibility, facilitator scope of practice limits, current challenges, and a proposal for dual licensure.

Brandy Hemsley, Executive Appointments Advisor, provided an update on filling vacant Board member positions. The next round of Senate confirmations will take place next week, which will be the last Senate confirmation opportunity for the remainder of the year. Currently there not as many applications for public member positions as the Governor's Executive Appointments Office had hoped for. The Governor has expressed a preference for public member positions to be filled, if at all possible, by consumers and service users. The next Senate Confirmation hearing has not yet been scheduled, but is expected to be held in February 2025. Hemsley and Miller are working on focused outreach and recruitment opportunities. There is a Boards and Commissions equity collaborative whose focus is to increase recruitment of and retain individuals who bring a more diverse perspective.

Chair Manriquez discussed planning a travel Board meeting in the first quarter of 2025 to reach people who would not otherwise be able to attend a meeting. Board members discussed potential meeting locations in Oregon. **Janssen** suggested polling licensees to see who would be interested in participating in their location. **Farr** recommended creating a poll that listed location options to choose from. **Director Miller** will send an email poll to all licensees to see who would be more likely to attend a Board meeting held in central Oregon, eastern Oregon, southern Oregon, or the coastal region. **Chair Manriquez** suggested making the meeting a two-day event that included Board member training. **Martin** recommended providing CE credit for attendees.

12. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

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

13. CORRESPONDENCE:

[No special reviews at this time]

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ashton-Williams announced ASWB research on alternative pathways and supervision will be published in spring 2025. The next ASWB New Board member training will be held in October.

15. TRAINING:

Board members completed the DAS CHRO Preventing Discrimination and Harassment training.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Chair Manriquez adjourned the Board meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*