



STATE OF NEVADA

## BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502

### MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Friday, January 24, 2020

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers (BESW) was called to order by Vikki Erickson, Board President, at 9:08 a.m. The meeting was held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) System Computing Services Building, Room 47, in Reno, Nevada, 89557. There was a simultaneous audioconference conducted at Mojave Mental Health, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite A100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89146. President Erickson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and that the Board members present constituted a quorum.

**ROLL CALL:** Roll call was initiated by President Erickson, with the following individuals present:

Members Present:

Vikki Erickson, LCSW, President (**Erickson**)  
Stefaine Maplethorpe, LCSW, Board Member (**Maplethorpe**)  
Susan Nielsen, Secretary / Treasurer (**Nielsen**)

Staff, Advisors Present:

Karen Oppenlander, Executive Director (**Oppenlander**)  
Asheesh Bhalla, Esq., Board Counsel (**Bhalla**)

Public Present:

Gracie L. Burton, LSW  
Todd Edwards, Public  
Gerthe Polk, LSW  
Rebecca Robinson, Public

*Board members and Board staff will be identified by the above bolded means throughout the minutes.*

*Item 3F (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Annual Audit for Year Ending June 30 2019 was removed from the agenda by Director **Oppenlander**.*

**Erickson** turned to Agenda Item 2, Public Comment. As there was no public comment, **Erickson** moved forward to **Item 3 A for (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Request for Restoration of License (LSW) as per G19-25 for Rebecca Robinson**. **Oppenlander** introduced Case G19-25 that was brought against Robinson for the following: On August 31, 2019 her social work license #2557-S became delinquent and as of October 31, 2019, her social work license #2577-S expired; On December 9, 2019, the Board received an Application for Restoration of License from

Robinson; On the application it stated that Robinson had been employed by Clark County Family Services as an "Adoption Social Worker II" from May 1998 until the present time; Based on this information it appeared that Robinson had been providing social work services without a valid social work license. Robinson had complete her restoration application, paid appropriate fees for restoration and her 2019 renewal fee, had submitted fingerprint cards, and her background report was clear. Additionally Robinson's continuing education hours are up-to-date. In support of Robinson, the Board was in receipt of four letters of recommendation. Robinson apologized to the Board for the mistake she had made by not renewing her license on time. When she came to realize her error, she discontinued working in the role of a social worker. Her Supervisor and Manager were made aware of the situation and followed the Board's guidelines as it pertained to Robinson's position and her inability to work as a social worker during this time period. The adjudication of this case was to be determined by the Board. The Board made a motion to approve Robinson's Restoration Application.

**Susan Nielsen made a Motion to Approve the Restoration of License for Rebecca Robinson, LSW, Seconded by Stefaine Maplethorpe. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

Next, **Erickson** moved to **Item 3B, (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Application for License (LSW) as per Screening Policy for Todd Edwards.** As the decision to go into closed session is up to the individual, **Erickson** asked Edwards if he wanted the matter heard in closed session. Edwards decided to continue in open session. **Oppenlander** introduced this agenda item. The application for Edward's LSW license included an explanation for several arrests and subsequent sentencing due to the seriousness of the offenses. As part of the application process, the Board staff had conducted a background check and determined that this application would need to be brought to the Board for review and possible approval as per the direction provided in the Board's Screening Policy. Following the introduction, Edwards spoke about his life after completion of his sentencing and parole, about his recovery program, and about his dedication to his family and to helping others. The Board was in receipt of six letters from the community in support of licensing Edwards. After Edwards answered questions from the Board, the Board determined that it would want to move the license forward for approval.

**Stefaine Maplethorpe made a Motion to Approve the Application for License (LSW) for Todd Edwards, seconded by Susan Nielsen. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

Next, **Erickson** proceeded to **Item 3C, (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Public Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019.** The Board and staff discussed errors made in the minutes by the court reporters for the Public Meeting. To remedy these mistakes, **Oppenlander** asked if the Board would approve the minutes with corrected spellings of Board member's names. If approved, when the Board receives the corrected minutes, staff will post the corrected minutes on the Board's website.

**Stefaine Maplethorpe made a Motion to Approve the Public Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019 with changes, Seconded by Susan Nielsen. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

Next, **Erickson** introduced **Item 3D (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Board Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019.**

**Susan Nielsen made a Motion to Approve the Board Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2019, Seconded by Stefaine Maplethorpe. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

Following, **Erickson** introduced **Item 3E (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Second Quarter Financials for Quarter Ending December 31, 2019.** **Oppenlander** told the Board that the handout shows the financial picture of the Board at the end-of-2019 which also is the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year 2019-2020. Total income for December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 is 2% below budget forecast while total expenses are as forecasted. She also explained that two expenditures for the fiscal year were spent in 2019 for new computers and for 2020 maintenance of the online licensing system. Also of note, new fee increases are set to begin ahead of our previous timetable; we currently expect that our income will slightly exceed projections by the end of the fiscal year.

**Stefaine Maplethorpe made a Motion to Approve the Second Quarter Financials for Quarter Ending December 31, 2019, Seconded by Susan Nielsen. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

Next on the agenda, **Item 3G, (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of Executive Director to Attend Association of Social Work Board's 2020 Education Meeting "Embracing Regulatory Research" to be held April 23-25 2020 in Chicago.** **Oppenlander** expressed that it could be a good investment of time as the conference will be about regulatory issues. **Erickson** asked **Oppenlander** to apply for a scholarship to help defray costs.

**Susan Nielsen made a Motion to Approve the Plan to have the Director Attend the 2020 ASWB Education Meeting in April 2020, Seconded by Stefaine Maplethorpe. During a Roll Call Vote the Motion was Approved Unanimously.**

**Erickson** introduced **Item 3H, (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of BESW "Safe and Healthy Workplace Policy" and Capitol Police Assessment of BESW Building Security.** **Oppenlander** offered information to keep the Board in the loop about the development of a workplace safety policy and plan. She had asked for advice from **Erickson** who recommended that **Oppenlander** contact Capitol Police for assistance. **Oppenlander** has also received initial assistance from the OSHA office in the Kietzke complex. She briefly went over the handout of a new policy that has been reviewed by all staff along with review of a safety CD from the State of Nevada. The group was not asked for action on this informational item.

Succeeding, **Oppenlander** went over **Item I, Review and Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Statistics.** At the end of the second quarter, the Board has 3388 licensees with more added (90 total made up of 45 LSW and 45 LCSW) than lost (49 total). The number of licenses issued during this quarter via endorsement were 3 LSW and 15 LCSW. There were no disciplinary actions during the quarter.

**Erickson** moved forward to **Item J, Executive Director’s Report**. **Oppenlander** let the group know about recent meetings that staff has attended. First, she shared about the Legislative Commission meeting when the Commission approved BESW’s NAC changes on December 30, 2019. Sandy Lowery then sent an update email to all licensees, updated information on the Board’s website, established that fee increases would go into effect on January 15, 2020 and that “Internship” NAC changes would go into effect on January 1, 2020. Next, **Oppenlander** shared information from a presentation that was made to the Sunset Committee Meeting on January 10, 2020. Also, Sandy Lowery is a Community Advisory Board member for UNLV; and, **Oppenlander** is a Community Advisory Board member for UNR who shared a Save the Date Handout for March 10, 2020 School of Social Work Event – *Celebrating Social Work Leaders*. The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 13, 2020. Last, she asked if the group had suggestions for future agenda items.

**Erickson** moved on to **Agenda Item 5 Public Comment**. There was no public comment. Then, **Erickson** turned to **Agenda Item 6 Adjournment**.

**Susan Nielsen made a Motion for Adjournment, Maplethorpe Seconded.  
The Roll Call vote was Passed Unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Karen Oppenlander, Executive Director