



STATE OF NEVADA  
**BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS (BESW)**  
4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502  
775-688-2555

**Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, September 21, 2022**

The September 21, 2022, Board Meeting was called to order by Linda **Holland Browne** at 9:00 a.m. A **Roll Call** was taken. Board members in attendance: Linda **Holland Browne**, Abigail **Klimas**, Jacqueline **Sanders**, and due to technical difficulties Dr. Esther **Langston** and Susan **Nielson** arrived after a few minutes. BESW Staff in attendance were Sandra **Lowery** and Karen **Oppenlander**. In attendance was Harry B. **Ward**, Deputy Attorney General and Board Counsel. Guests in attendance: Megan Jones and Kelly Marschall from Social Entrepreneurs; Omar DeLaRosa and Mendy Elliott from Flynn Guidici. The meeting was turned over to **Langston**.

**Langston** asked for **Public Comment**. There was no online public comment; one request by **Holland Browne** for clarification about an upcoming meeting date that is currently scheduled to occur on Wednesday, December 21, 2022.

Next, **Langston** turned to Board Operations. She postponed Agenda Item 3A Review Litigation Matter - United States District Court for the District of Nevada - Case No. 3:20-cv-571-MMD-WG until a future time as the presenter was not available.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3B, Review and Discuss August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, Board Minutes. (For Possible Action)** and asked for a motion; and a motion was made and seconded to approve the Board Minutes. There was a brief discussion regarding the style for presentation of board minutes (summary minutes vs detailed minutes) and it was determined that this discussion item will be placed on the October agenda.

**Motion was made by Linda Holland Browne to approve August 17, 2022, Minutes as presented, Seconded by Jacqueline Sanders. Minutes were approved.**

Next, **Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3C, Review and Discuss BESW Strategic Plan July 1, 2023— June 30, 2026. (For Possible Action)**. Megan Jones and Kelly Marschall from Social Entrepreneurs were available to guide the Board through a segment of the strategic planning process that will cover the period from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026.

Jones covered slides identifying critical issues that have been called out during the SEI data information gathering from the survey and key one-on-one interviews. Jones reminded attendees that strategic planning is intended to operate as a communication and management tool that guides the prioritization goal setting and future work of the Board and the Board Members. This is meant to be a living, breathing document that allows an organization to evaluate and adapt to changes. And the strategic plan will appropriately identify the resources available. Jones went over the SWOT analysis. Board and Board Staff asked questions, made comments, and some corrections were noted.

Marschall next provided information about establishing "scaffolding" for the strategic plan: concepts/ goals/ priorities/ strategies. First the Board looked at the updated strategic plan that was developed and adopted for July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. Starting there, she helped the Board to look at the themes of the SWOT Analysis along with the themes in the current plan. The intention was to find issue areas and potential critical issues that the strategic plan should address over the next one to three years. Also, the other piece was to think about the strengths and opportunities. Strengths are things that can be leveraged to mitigate a weakness, or to improve performance. We don't want to just push those off to the side. We want to think about those strengths in terms of what have we done well, that has worked,

that we could apply to these other critical issues. You're holding all this contextual knowledge, as you begin planning. The question was: What current critical issues should we move forward and are there critical issues that are not addressed in the current strategic plan that you would like to elevate? She suggested that what the Board was doing is building a menu. And that at the next session, we will prioritize that menu, start to build out goals and then define strategies, timing, resources, etcetera.

After a thorough discussion, the Board concluded the planning process for September 2022. In closing, Marschall stated that this was Megan's last week with SEI. Langston thanked Megan Jones and appreciated all she had done in working with BESW. Klimas wished her good luck in California.

Langston then moved to **Agenda Item 3D - Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C. (For Possible Action)**. Ward stated that we are still trying to resolve this matter and asked that this matter be put on the next agenda by the Executive Director. Langston indicated that this matter will be placed on the next agenda.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3E - Board Review of License Renewal for Eyob Ayele, License No. LMSW #6592-M (For Possible Action)**. Oppenlander stated that the Board has received a confidential packet and the licensee has requested that the matter be heard in Closed Session. The Closed Session was commenced at 10:32 a.m. with Board Members **Holland Browne, Klimas, Langston, Nielson, and Sanders** in attendance. They were joined by Executive Director **Oppenlander** and Deputy Attorney General and Board Counsel **Ward**. Closed Session was concluded at 11:14 a.m.

At 11:15 a.m., Langston returned to Open Session for **Agenda Item 3E - Board Review of License Renewal for Eyob Ayele, License No. LMSW #6592-M (For Possible Action)**.

**Motion was made by Linda Holland Browne to Approve License Renewal for Eyob Ayele, License No. LMSW #6592-M, Seconded by Jacqueline Sanders. Roll Call Vote: Sanders – Aye, Holland Brown – Aye, Klimas – Aye, Nielsen – Aye, and Langston – Aye. Motion was approved unanimously.**

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3F - Review and Discuss BESW Licensure Processes and Other Items Regarding Workforce Shortages in Mental Health Professions. (For Discussion Only)**. Oppenlander covered "Understanding the Challenge of Significant Shortages in All Mental Health Professions" – an Updated Report with two reports from August 2022; then, Nevada Current Report – School Social Worker Guidelines that gives 'ideal' recommendations about improving school social work in all states; in the meantime, BESW has learned that Clark County has restored the agreement between BESW and the Clark County School District; next, we included a reference to BDR # 351 submitted by State of Nevada Committee on Commerce and Labor to provide for the issuance of temporary licenses by certain occupational licensing boards to members of the military and their spouses; and finally, the Board received the concept paper and the submission paper from the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board. Elliott commented that Flynn Giudici Government Affairs is gearing up to submit the BDRs to the Board in October, September.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3G - Review and Discuss Post-Graduate Internship Program - Issues for Consideration (For Possible Action)**. During this agenda item, President Langston turned the meeting over the Vice President **Holland Browne**. Oppenlander referred to three items for the Board: Amend requirement for onsite licensed mental health professional when the clinical supervisor is offsite; Reconsideration of policy for closing an internship site when the site appears on a Medicaid sanction / exclusion list; and reconsideration of expanded policy that includes sanctions made by any payor source; also, consideration of how a site may reopen as a teaching location for post-graduate interns; Consideration of allowing post-graduate clinical internship to be completed solely with remote practice; and Board is being asked to weigh in on whether this will constitute a comprehensive internship. Deputy Director **Lowery** facilitated the discussion stating that she had presented information to the Board in August 2022 regarding some internship issues that are surfacing and that she had made some initial recommendations on policy changes that the Board might ponder

between August and September meetings.

**Lowery** said that during August, we discussed the request from the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Board to remove the existing requirements for onsite licensed mental health professionals when the clinical supervisor isn't onsite. **Lowery** offered a middle ground response to the BESW Board: Reduce the requirement for onsite licensed mental health professional based on the intern having completed 1500 hours of their supervised 3000-hour internship. After discussion a motion was made.

**Motion was made by Jacqueline Sanders to revise the Supervised Internship Policy on a one year trial basis that would require Onsite Supervision for the first 1000 hours of Clinical and 500 hours of Non-clinical until the intern is essentially exam eligible; and after that point, if the Clinical Supervisor is comfortable, that BESW would ease the requirement to having offsite supervision via a hybrid model for emergency access by other form of communication e.g. video conference, telephone and etcetera; or the Supervisor could decide to continue in the current manner of having Onsite Supervision for the entire 3000-hour internship; Seconded by Klimas. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Lowery** clarified that the second internship matter for the Board's consideration is in three parts: Reconsideration of policy for closing an internship site when the site appears on a Medicaid sanction exclusion list; Reconsideration of closing an internship site when sanctions are made by other regulatory agencies; and consideration of how a site may be reopened as a teaching location for postgraduate interns when the sanction is lifted.

**Motion was made by Abigail Klimas to close an internship site when the site appears on a Medicaid sanction exclusion list; also, close an internship site when sanctions are made by other regulatory agencies; and reopen a site as a teaching location for postgraduate interns when the sanction is lifted; Seconded by Jacqueline Sanders. All in favor. Motion passed.**

The third portion of agenda item was the review by the Board of whether it would consider a postgraduate internship of purely remote telehealth as an adequate internship in the State of Nevada. **Lowery** made a recommendation to the Board to not accept an internship site that is purely remote based. Instead, she recommended that BESW require internship sites to be hybrid; a mix of both in-person and remote. A brief discussion led to a motion.

**Motion was made by Abigail Klimas to accept a fully in-person internship or an internship that is part in-person, part telehealth. Seconded by Jacqueline Sanders. All in favor. Motion passed.**

**Holland Browne** moved to **Agenda Item 3H - Review and Discuss Association of Social Work Boards 2022 Exam Pass Rate Analysis of Findings in Nevada – Deputy Director Sandra Lowery. (For Discussion Only).** **Lowery** discussed a large supplementary packet of information from ASWB that is Nevada specific. She also discussed several terms utilized in the reports: Self report is when a test taker can choose to self-report demographic information or select an option to choose not to answer. These self-reports are not verified. She also clarified the use of 'first time passing' and 'eventual pass rate'. First time passing refers to those who pass the exam the first time they take it. Eventual passing will include the first time but also includes those who took the exam a second, third time or more. For Nevada, during the 10-year period of 2011- 2021, ASWB had 844 test takers at the bachelor's level. Overall pass rate for the State of Nevada was 78.8%. When we look at the master's level exam for the same time, we had 1,760 test takers with an overall pass rate of 80.7%. And then, when you look at the clinical exam over that 10-year period, there were 779 individuals that took that exam with an overall pass rate of 81%. So that's the first set of information that you got in that report. The second set divides it by UNR and UNLV. One of the things to understand is that we have

approximately about 20% - 25% of our licensees that do not go to either UNR or UNLV. They will go through one of the national online programs. So, we do not ever see how that data filters into the exam totals. Board Members took a deeper dive into the data with **Lowery**. **Holland Browne** commented on the potential effect made by COVID on the examinations as so many students were unable to set foot on campus for an extended period.

**Holland Brown** moved to **Agenda Item 3I - Executive Director's Report (Informational)**. **Oppenlander** briefly recapped the NASW – NV Meeting on September 19th, 2022. She stated that that Kyle Hillman, the NASW Executive Director introduced a listening session to discuss the release of data from ASWB. Various NASW Nevada members shared their personal ASWB examination experiences with several sharing about exam preparation.

She continued by reminding Board Members that in August, the BESW Board selected two Board Members to fill in for one spot at an upcoming ASWB meeting. We have since learned that **Holland Browne** is not able to attend the meeting. As BESW has already selected an alternate, Board Member **Sanders** will be attending the November 18-19, 2022, Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in Scottsdale, Arizona.

BESW is in the process of preparing an extension to our current licensure software contract with Big Picture Software through December 31, 2023. We expect the one-year extension to cost under \$2000 for calendar year 2023.

Future Agenda Items: 1) Address items outlined by previous auditor; 2) Revisiting relinquishments (if requested); 3) NRS and NAC changes; 4) Financial Management of Board's Reserves (Checking accounts, Savings accounts, Money market deposit accounts, Certificate of deposit accounts); and etcetera; 5) Upcoming Strategic Planning Workshop; and 6) Look at bill draft requests that are being developed. Next Board Meeting is 9 a.m. Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

**Holland Browne** moved to **Agenda Item 4 - Public Comment**. **Oppenlander** indicated that there was no online public comment.

**Holland Browne adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Karen Oppenlander.